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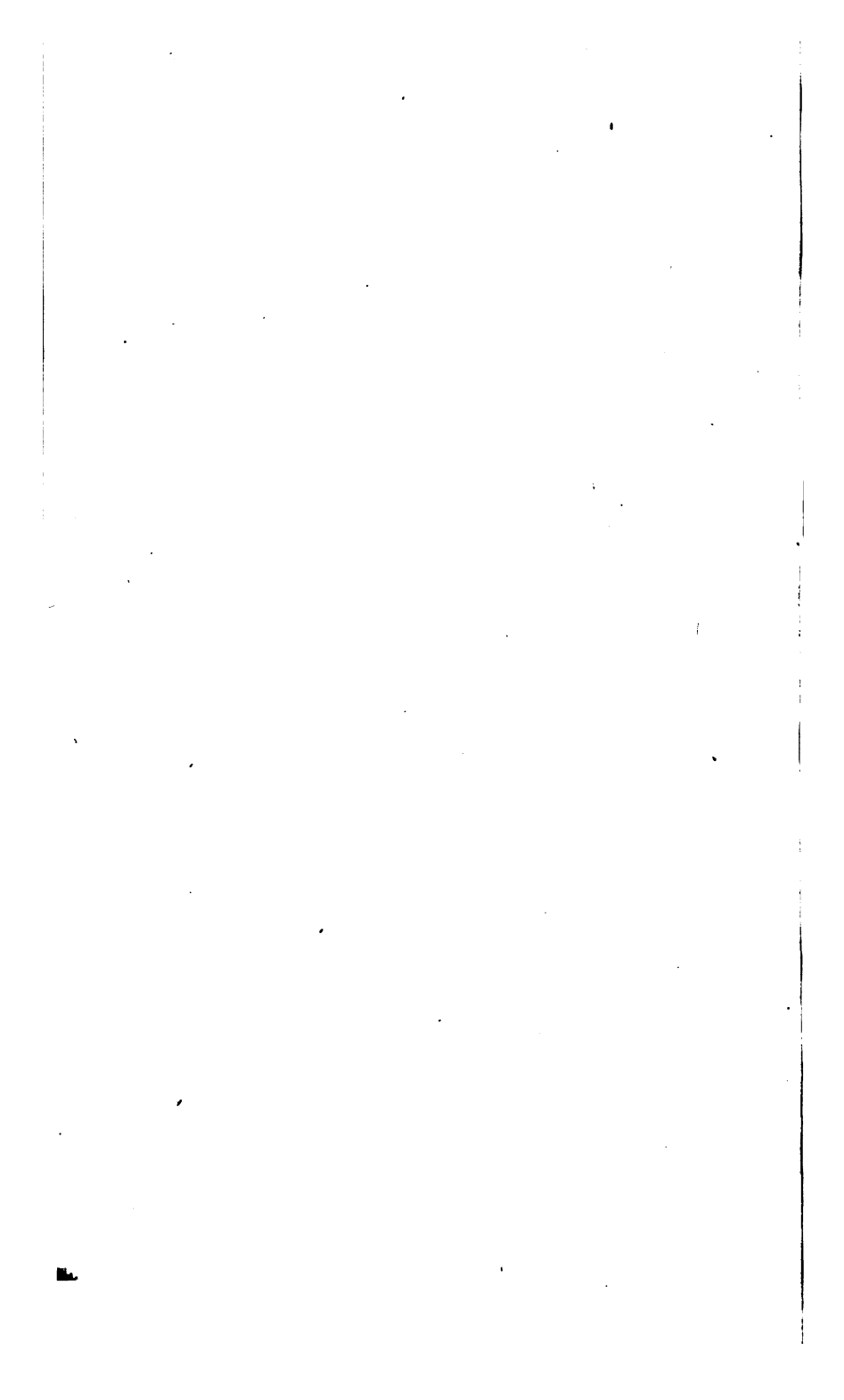
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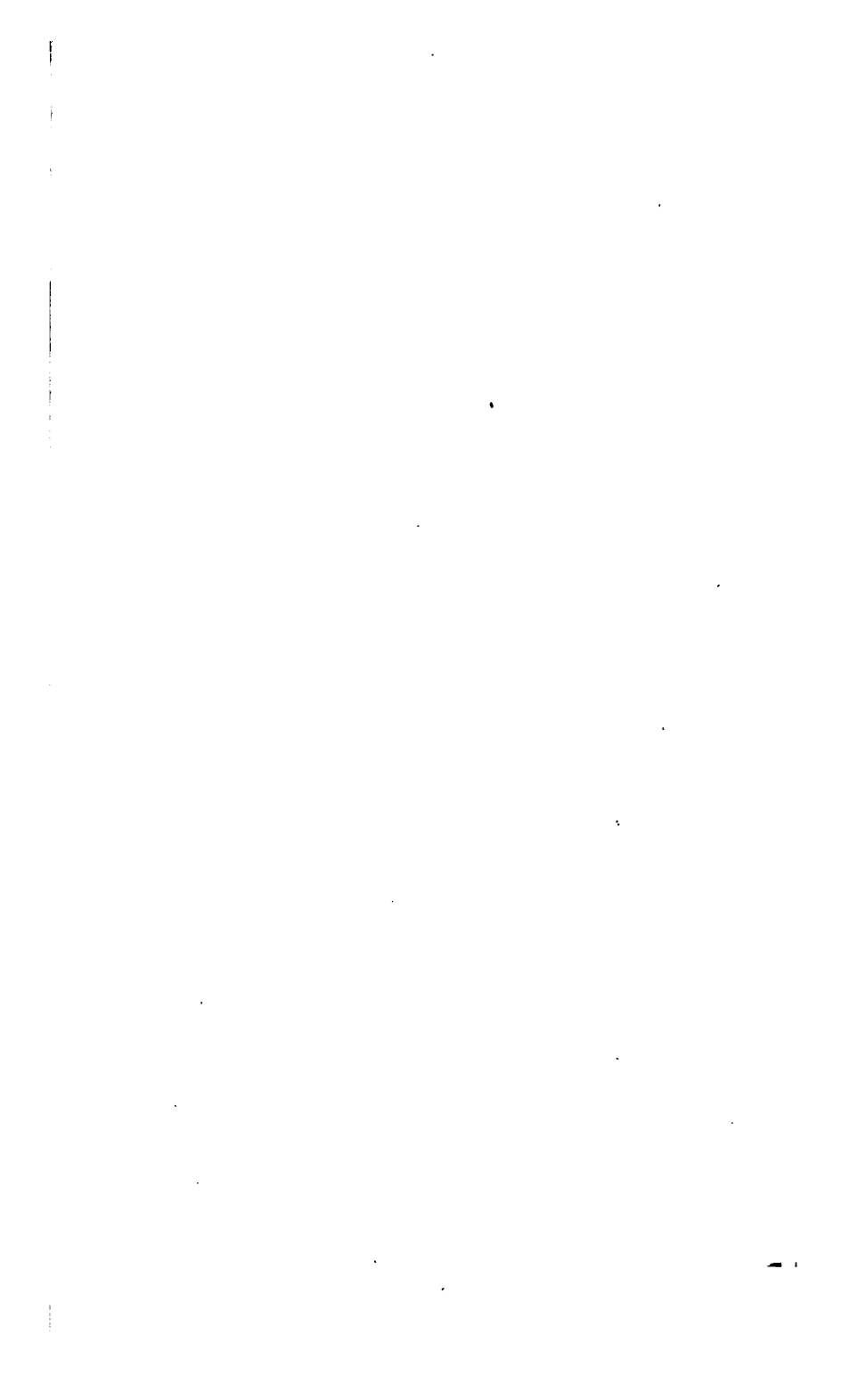
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THE
HISTORY
OF
MECKLENBURGH,

FROM THE
First Settlement of the VANDALS
in that COUNTRY,

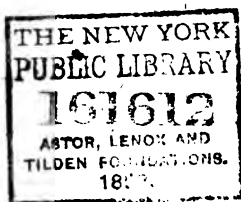
TO THE
PRESENT TIME;

Including a Period of about *Three Thousand*
YEARS.

LONDON:

Printed for J. NEWBERRY, at the *Bible and Sun*
in St. Paul's Church-yard.

M DCC LXII.



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(iii)

TO THE
Q U E E N.

M A D A M,

THE Joy universally diffused over the Nation by your Majesty's Nuptials with the best of Princes, and the Earnestness

A 2 with

with which Mankind read the Histories, and great Actions of those Families who are justly raised to supreme Dignity, have concurred to produce the following Sheets, which are most humbly dedicated to Your Majesty.

To whom could a Volume replete with the Struggles made for Liberty by the *German* Princes, particularly those of *Mecklenburgh*, be addressed with so much Propriety as to Your Majesty, whose Ancestors
so

DEDICATION.

so eminently distinguished themselves in the long protracted Contest, and who enjoy the Glory of being called to share the Throne of a Monarch reigning over the greatest, because the freest, People upon Earth ; over a People who venerate their Sovereigns for their Virtues, and whose Obedience is dictated by Affection ; the strongest, best, most durable, and most glorious Security on which the Throne can be raised, and Empire be established.

D E D I C A T I O N.

Wishing your Majesty
every Honour entailed on
your exalted Station, and
every Happiness due to your
private Virtue, I am,

May it please Your MAJESTY,

With the most profound Obedience,

Your MAJESTY's most dutiful

Subject and Servant,

JOHN NEWBERRY.

THE
AUTHOR'S
PREFACE.

THE general curiosity of the nation renders an apology for the subject of the following sheets altogether needless, since I have reason to hope it will prove a more powerful advocate for the undertaking, than any thing I could pretend to say in my excuse: but I must confess that a due consciousness of the censure which this hasty performance deserves, would fill me with very uneasy apprehensions, if I did not depend on the generous indulgence of my readers; who I trust will at least be pleased with my desire of imparting satisfaction to their curiosity, although I may have

have been so unfortunate as to fail in the manner of conveying it.

An event of the greatest importance to a Monarch, whose virtues have made so deep an impression on the hearts of his subjects, that upon his happiness their own in a great measure depends, could not fail of exciting universal attention. The Prince who is anxiously watchful for the welfare of his people, most justly becomes the object of the public care: and who is there that possesses a heart so insensible to the charms of virtue, as not to form the warmest wishes for that Monarch's felicity in every tender connexion, whose social virtues shine so conspicuously! Is there an Englishman who does not cherish the pleasing hope, that the cares of the Sovereign will in his hours of retirement, be alleviated by the affectionate endearments of the tenderest friendship, and that he will enjoy in the highest degree, that domestic happiness, which he endeavours, both by his govern-

government and example, to secure to his subjects.

As soon, therefore, as his Majesty declared his intention of taking the Princess of *Mecklenburgh* for his consort, she became the general topic of discourse; and every *Briton's* thoughts were turned towards the family from which *Great Britain* was to receive its Queen. They all enquired, with the most ardent curiosity, for anecdotes concerning the house of *Mecklenburgh*; and each person embraced such accounts as best suited his inclinations, how weak soever the foundation whereon he built his belief; from hence a general contradiction, and a consequent confusion in opinions arose, and all seemed ignorant of the family of their future Queen. I confess I was myself no less curious on this subject than the rest of my countrymen; and since I could receive no satisfaction in this respect from conversation, nor discover in such opposite accounts, which were
most

P R E F A C E.

most worthy of credit, I applied to instructors, who being free from prejudice, might afford me a general notion, altho', perhaps, not sufficiently circumstantial in minute details. I sought, therefore, in all the authors from whom I could hope to receive any information for authentic particulars, relative to the house of *Mecklenburgh*,

The difficulties I met with in this pursuit were greater than I expected, for many have written the history of the empire; but none of *Germany*; at least as far as I have been able to discover; for treating it as one state, they have not entered into any distinct account of the various principalities of which that great monarchy is composed; but omitted every circumstance not particularly relative to the Empire. This I suppose is the reason that their histories contain little beside continual wars; for as the Emperor's civil power is almost totally confined to his hereditary dominions, and as every Prince is Sovereign

in

in his own territory, being connected with the rest only in such affairs as affect the whole empire, few events occur while they remain in amity; and the history of *Germany* thus becomes entirely military; and consequently unentertaining. The most interesting part of a Prince's actions concern only the administration of government; his virtues cannot easily extend beyond his dominions, though his vices may influence the whole *Germanic* body. An ambitious man may spread his renown through many nations, while peaceful virtues are seldom wafted by the voice of fame, beyond those confines which set bounds to the Prince's power. From hence it happens, that where national historians are wanting, we generally remain ignorant of those particulars, which would afford the greatest pleasure to a judicious reader.

The same disadvantages occur in the annals of every other country, where we
find

find any circumstances relative to the Princes of *Mecklenburgh*: in whatsoever place they are mentioned still they are at war; seldom as principals, but either as auxiliaries to neighbouring Monarchs, or unsuccessfully contending for liberty, with powers greatly superior to themselves; and undaunted by frequent and fatal experience of the inferiority of their forces, still struggling for freedom with unsubdued courage, however oppressed by their tyrannical conquerors. While we behold them actuated by so laudable a spirit, we cannot but regret, that they have had no national historians to do justice to their actions, and that many material circumstances relative to a family, which has given monarchs to three different kingdoms, should be involved in obscurity.

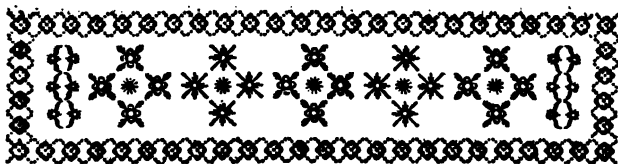
Had a more able pen undertaken to render this illustrious family better known to the *English*, I should readily have forborn

born the task ; but, as nothing of this kind has appeared, I flatter myself, that my imparting to general curiosity what in my researches I have been able to discover concerning it, may not be disagreeable to the public, though it has not been in my power to form the history of *Mecklenburgh* into so regular, and uniform a series, as I could have desired. If this attempt prove an inducement to any person, better qualified, to do justice to the subject, I shall think myself entitled to claim some merit with the public, and shall find therein a better excuse for the defects in this performance, than in my desire to gratify universal curiosity, or the haste with which it has been attempted. The latter is but a poor apology, but if it can ever be allowed of any weight, I think it must be on such an occasion ; since curiosity is necessarily accompanied with impatience, and the best recommendation this work can claim, is a speedy endeavour to satisfy

fy so restless a passion ; which has been greatly increased by the arrival of the Princess, whose engaging appearance excites in the nation the most pleasing hopes, of seeing in her, the worthy partner of their monarch's throne.

E R R A T A.

Page 14, line 21 from the top, for *have* read *had*. Ibid, in the reference at the bottom of the page, for *Sacogoth*, r. *Sueogoth*. P. 20, l. 15, for *Frigga* or *Tuisto*, r. *Frigga*, *Tuisto*. P. 29, in the reference for *Mascon's*, r. *Mascou's*. P. 30, l. 23, for *these*, r. *those*. P. 36, l. 21, for *any*, r. *a*. P. 42, l. 27, for *and that*, r. *which*. P. 47, in the reference, for *Orafius*, r. *Orofius*. P. 49, last line but 1, for *Godigifces*, r. *Godigifcles*. P. 57, l. 10, dele *they*, l. 11, dele *were*. P. 68, l. 6, for *that* r. *his Conversion*; l. 7 for *they revolted*, r. *the Abodrites revolted*. P. 75, l. 2, after *King*, r. *of that Island*. P. 84, l. 5, for *Scattleder*, r. *Scattelder*. P. 87, l. 1, for *a* r. *her*. P. 88, l. 23 after *as*, r. *in*. P. 91, l. 18, for *frindship*, r. *friendship*; last line, dele *so*. P. 93, l. 10, for *concealments*, r. *the place where they were concealed*. P. 96, l. 21, for *Nocholas*, r. *Nicholas*. P. 107, l. 19, dele *and*. P. 109, l. 6, for *their*, r. *his*. P. 119, l. 17, for *whom*, r. *who*. P. 120, l. 4, for *states*, r. *estates*. P. 127, l. 8, for *President*, r. *Precedent*. P. 136, l. 5, after *arms*, instead of a period, place a semicolon. P. 142, l. 12, after *he*, r. *had*. P. 162, l. 16, for *Indelburga*, r. *Ingeburga*. P. 170, l. 20, for *into*, r. *to*. P. 180, l. 2, after *of*, r. *Suspensor*, or. P. 198, l. 13, for *Populous*, r. *Populace*. P. 210, l. 2, after *of*, r. *the*. P. 212, l. 2, for *recourse*, read *resource*. P. 217, l. 18, after *duty*, dele *he*. P. 218, l. 1, dele *Mouth of the*. P. 223, l. 11, dele *he*. P. 250, line 7, dele *to*, *surrender*. P. 251, l. 16, and in other places for *Torguato* r *Torquato*. P. 254, l. 8, after *once*, r. *more*. P. 261, l. 10, for *Damitz*, r. *Domitz*. P. 275, after *Checks*, add a Comma. P. 283, l. 12, after *to*, r. *the*. P. 285, last line, for *degree*, r. *decree*. P. 295, l. 22, for *that*, r. *and*. P. 302, l. 2, for *Chanmond*, r. *Chaumond*. P. 317, l. 5, for *Guliers*, r. *Juliers*. P. 320, l. 24, after *Widow of*, read *the Duke of*. P. 321, dele *the first*. P. 332, l. 18, for *Christina*, r. *Christian*. P. 343, l. 19, for *Dukes*, r. *Duke*.



THE
HISTORY
OF
MECKLENBURGH.

THE empire of *Germany* is not so properly one state as an association of many. The titles of Duke, Marquis, &c. are in that country not merely honourary; they have all separate principalities annexed to them, and each enjoys in his particular territory the power of coining money, levying armies, and making war or peace with any but members

B

bers of the *Germanic* body. He has power of life and death over his own subjects, and is absolute, and without control, as far as regards the internal part of his dominions: but all affairs that concern the whole *Germanic* body are transacted in the Diet,* where every Prince has a right to vote. Even most of the Prelates in the empire are temporal Princes. There are near three hundred distinct principalities in *Germany*, which, together with the Emperor, compose what we call the *Germanic* body.

The subjection of these petty Sovereigns chiefly appears in being obliged to do homage to the Emperor, and to accompany him in all his wars, attended by a stipulated number of men, in proportion to their dominions, furnished and maintained at their own expence. In points of great importance there is an appeal from the Princes to the Emperor, if they refuse to do justice.

To the Emperor belongs the privilege of conferring honours and titles; most offices, whether great or small, even to the

* Hist. de l'Empire, par le Sieur de Heiffa.

appoint-

MECKLENBURGH.

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appointment of public Notaries, are in his gift: he disposes of all forfeitures and confiscations: he is Judge in all differences which happen between the Princes of the empire; and no compacts or treaties are valid till confirmed by him: he has a right to claim the revival of any process wherein the Princes have refused to do justice. The decisions of the Diet are of no force till they have received his approbation. He summons and dismisses those assemblies at pleasure, and directs them on what subjects to deliberate*.

These are the chief branches of his power; but then he is under considerable restraints. He can neither make nor abrogate laws, levy taxes, declare war, or conclude peace, without the consent of the Diet. Since the *Austrian* family possessed the Imperial throne, the Emperor's power has indeed been much increased by his Hereditary dominions, *Austria*, *Bobemia*, and *Hungary*. The forces and revenues which arise from these states, extend his power of awing, or obliging his vassals.

* Ibid. Introduction à l'Histoire de l'Univers, par *Martiniere*.

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Among the great number of Princes who reign in *Germany*, are nine Electors, in whom reside the power of electing the Emperor, which is at present little more than an idle ceremony; for since the house of *Austria* possessed the crown, it has descended almost in hereditary succession. The Electors are, the Archbishops of *Mentz*, of *Triers* or *Treves*, and of *Cologne*, the King of *Bohemia*, the Dukes of *Bavaria*, *Saxony*, *Brunswick-Lunenbourg* King of *England*, the Marquis of *Brandenburgh* King of *Prussia*, and the Prince *Palatine* of the *Rhine* *. In this state we may distinguish traces of the ancient *Gothic* government, which was composed of various distinct bodies, each under separate Kings, who seem to have been connected, though we know not the terms of their union. But herein we perceive a considerable difference, the *Goths* allowed only a limited power to their Sovereigns. The Prince who subdued many nations was still obliged to submit to the laws of his country and was liable to be controlled by his sub-

* Ibid.

jects: but every Prince in *Germany* is absolute in his principality; and however insignificant his state may be, still he is above the laws.

Mecklenburgh, tho' now included in the *Germanic* body, was for many ages subject to *Denmark*. The *Romans*, on the ruin of whose monarchy the *German* empire was raised, never penetrated beyond the *Elbe*; nor do we find they ever attempted it: either discouraged by the rigors of so northern a climate, and the extreme fierceness of the people, or by a supposition that the country could not repay them for the trouble of the conquest.

Though *Mecklenburgh* escaped the general slavery under which the *Romans* had reduced almost all the known world; yet as the weaker state will ever be much restrained, if not entirely subdued by its stronger neighbours, the *Danes* made them and the adjacent countries feel the weight of their superior force. *Mecklenburgh*, not originally a distinct principality, was included with *Pomerania*, the *Hans* towns, and the north part of *Brandenburgh*, un-

der the general name of *Wandalia**; tho' possibly not all governed by one Prince; since we find that the *Gothic* states were divided into many small kingdoms; and perhaps the present division of that territory, into separate principalities, may have been the consequence of the various states which subsisted therein in the earlier ages; when, tho' in general terms, all beyond the *Elbe* is called *Wandalia*, yet we find among them people of different denominations, of whom the kingdom of the *Abodrites* seems to have been the most powerful. This kingdom contained the country now called *Mecklenburgh*, which tho' not one of the most extensive states in *Germany*, yet perhaps can bring more authentic proofs of its antiquity, than many more considerable principalities can boast.

If we may trust to the testimony of *Marchallus Thurius*, who has written the annals of the *Vandals* and the *Heruli*, *Antyrius*, a native of the country bordering on the *Palus Meotis*, and one of *Alexander* the Great's Captains, discontented at hav-

* Introd. à l'Hist. de l'Univ. par *Martiniere*.

ing no share allotted to him of that Prince's conquests, which after his decease were divided among other Commanders, taking leave of his more fortunate comrades, set sail with as many of his soldiers as were willing to share his fortune to the isle of *Gotbland*; accompanied by the son of the King who then reigned in that island, with whom he was united in the strictest friendship.

The King of *Gotbland* received his son with extreme joy; and as the strongest testimonial of his affection for him, entertained *Antyrius* with the greatest generosity; but as a state of dependance can never appear eligible to a noble mind, he could not think of continuing at that Prince's court; but hearing that at no great distance there was a nation of *Heruli*, of whom those from whence he sprung were only a colony, he went thither as to his native country, and prevailed with the people to accept him for their King.

After he was in quiet possession of the throne, either to shew his gratitude to the King of *Gotbland*, or to indulge a passion conceived while at his court, he asked *Symbulla*, that King's daughter, in

marriage: nor was he an unsuccessful lover. This Princess seems to have been as agreeable to her subjects as to *Antyrius*, for after her death they ranked her among the Deities, and adored her under the name of *Siva*.

The same author adds, that from the various coloured cloaths worn by this adventurer's foldiers, they were named *Abodriti*, an appellation afterwards extended to the whole nation. Upon the pavilion of the vessels in which *Antyrius* came to this country, he says, was painted the head of *Bucephalus*, and that he had upon his shield a griffin in an azure field, from whence he derives the arms of *Mecklenburgh*. He likewise assures us, that some of the posterity of *Antyrius* reigned for many ages over the *Vandals*, while part of them left their country to carry ruin and destruction into the *Roman* empire. By his account, *Pribislas* the Second, the last King of the *Vandals* in *Mecklenburgh*, was the fortieth Monarch in regular succession from *Antyrius* *.

* *Marcellus Thurius, Annales Vandalorum et Herulorum.*

Such is the contested account transmitted to us by *Marcballus Thurius*; who having been a Councillor of state to a Duke of *Gustrow*, is said by his defenders to have compiled his annals upon authentic records and materials, which being since lost, his history is invalidated for want of authors that corroborate his testimony. Indeed, there is no proof of the certainty of what he relates, which more resemble traditional tales, than historical truth. But such is the case with all nations; their first rise is clouded with fables; confused traditions swelled into wonders by national vanity, betray all early writers into the marvellous: and it would be difficult to say what country is least guilty of this folly; though the contests which have arisen on this point, were never more idle than those concerning the origin of the *Mecklenburghers*; since their antiquity is certain, though the name of the person who first assumed the title of King of that country be disputed; and if *Marcballus Thurius's* account be thought more illustrious, it is, however, less ancient, than what we find related by more credible historians; for we meet with frequent mention

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tion of them in the histories of neighbouring nations before the birth of *Alexander*. From these it appears, that the *Vandals* and the *Goths* were originally *Scythians* *, who migrated into *Scandinavia*, under the conduct of *Woden* their King; and afterwards, leaving their country a second time, settled in *Mecklenburgh* and the adjacent parts. From what we have said it will appear, that if we mean to write a general history of *Mecklenburgh*, it will be necessary to give some previous account of the *Vandals*; who for a long time retained many of the *Scythian* customs.

This people derived their original from *Magog*, the second son of *Japhet*: they possessed great part of *Asia*, and a large track in *Europe*, yet the coldness of part of their country, and their ill cultivation of the rest, rendered it insufficient for the support of its numerous inhabitants. A large multitude therefore invaded *Scandinavia*, from whence some of them afterwards removed into the northern parts of *Germany*, where their names were changed,

* *Procop. bell. Vind.*

as circumstances or fancy induced them, or their neighbours, to make such alteration. It is not improbable, that the *Vandals*, or *Wandals*, were distinguished by this name only on account of their migration from their former establishment, to a more fertile and less populous country; since the name *Vandal* or *Wandal*, may properly be derived from the word *Wandelen*, which in the *Gothic* tongue signifies to wander*.

The ravages these people committed in the *Roman* empire, have rendered their names opprobrious; but this seems to be rather a consequence of their leaving their conquered enemies to relate their actions, who, we may suppose, would not in this case adhere strictly to the truth. The devastations they made are indeed indisputable; but were the *Romans* themselves more merciful conquerors? The state of war is a state of destruction; but their virtues, by all accounts, were such, as few more civilized nations could *then* equal.

They were famous for hospitality and benevolence: the stranger wanted no other

* *Matth. Prætor. in Orbe Goth. Intro. à l'Hist. de l'Un. par Martinière.*

recommendation to them than his being such. It was probably on account of their merits that a part of them received the name of *Goths*, from their *German* neighbours, in whose language *Goten* signifies *Good**.

Their only riches were their flocks, by whose milk they were sustained, and whose skins served them for cloathing. They had no temptations to be intemperate, nor means of being luxurious. As they were strangers to such incentives to injustice, we may easily believe they were just, and rather attribute to this circumstance, than to their having enacted severe laws against theft, that they suffered their flocks to wander at pleasure, without fear of any diminution from the rapacity of others. Universal poverty is the most certain prevention of robbery. Riches, that cannot be heaped up, the most parsimonious will impart; therefore, if a *Vandal* by any sickness among his cattle, or other accident, was poorer than his neighbours, he was sure of being supplied from their superfluity. These friendly and hospitable assistances, kept up that de-

* *Grot.* in proleg. ad *Procop.*

pendance among them, which they had no traffic to constitute; and free from envy, they lived in peace and virtue, like brethren, void of ambition or covetousness.

Of the uses of gold and silver they were happily ignorant, and consequently despised them as less serviceable metals than iron. They had not even the general indulgence of a fixed and convenient habitation. Covered waggons served them for houses, and contained themselves, their families, and all their inanimate property. Their poverty, their temperance and uncorrupted principles, gave occasion but for few ordinances. The great law of nature, the consciousness of right and wrong, so strongly impainted on the heart of man, that a course of wickedness cannot totally efface it, was felt by them in its full force, and proved in most things a sufficient restraint on their actions. Where it was not found effectual, they provided for the common good by the most salutary laws.

They treated adultery as a capital crime, which never escaped death; but polygamy was so much countenanced among them, that a man was respected in proportion to
the

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the number of his wives. It was usual to keep only one son at home, the rest, which were often an incredible number, they sent in search of new settlements; their own country, ill cultivated, and not naturally fruitful, being insufficient for the great increase of its inhabitants. They encouraged the study of philosophy, and gave frequent proofs, that knowledge in this science was no unsuccessful road to the throne*.

The simplicity of manners, so remarkable in the *Scythians* and their descendants, has given occasion to invidious comparisons between them and luxurious nations; but they are more properly objects of envy than of comparison, since virtue is easily practised where there are no temptations to vice: but we find, that their virtues decreased with their poverty; and the unsettled lives to which they have been accustomed, was perhaps one reason for those numerous bodies of robbers which infested *Wandadia* for many years. Their warlike dispositions, likewise, must in some

* *Adam Bremens, in Suegeth.*

measure dispose them to attempt gaining by violence, whatever they unjustly desired to possess.

Every means was taken to breed their youth up to war. No man could share the spoil of the vanquished, nor appear at the yearly feasts given by their Kings, but those who had slain an enemy in battle. The same qualification was required of every woman, before she was allowed to enter into wedlock; and she who could not produce this testimonial of her valour, was obliged to submit to a life of celibacy.

The people were divided into two ranks, soldiers and shepherds; the latter were the inferior. These had slaves and captives under them, to assist in taking care of the herds; which, as convenience directed, they removed from pasture to pasture; together with such persons, and families, as were unfit to go to war.

Though the power of their Kings was very circumscribed, yet they paid them extraordinary honours after death, giving them very pompous funerals. As soon as the King expired, his body was covered
with

with wax, and delivered to the embalmers; who filling the inside of it with bruised cypress, incense, parsley and anise-seeds, sewed it up, and conveyed it on a chariot through all the provinces of the kingdom.

Wherever the corpse passed, the people were obliged to perform the usual funeral ceremonies, which consisted in cutting off one part of their ear, shaving their heads, wounding their foreheads, noses, and arms, and piercing their left hands with an arrow. In this manner they accompanied the chariot from one province to another. When they arrived at the utmost extent of the kingdom, they deposited the body, which was laid on a bed encompassed with spears, in a large square hole made in the earth. This they covered with wood, and spread a canopy over it. They then placed about it one of the King's wives, a cook, a groom, a waiter, a messenger, and some horses, which were previously strangled.

To these they added many necessary utensils, and among others, some golden cups. After all this was performed, they threw a great quantity of earth thereon, endeavouring

ing to raise the mound to a considerable height.

At the expiration of the year they chose fifty of the King's officers, and caused them, with an equal number of horses, to be strangled: they were then embowelled and stuffed with straw: the bodies of the young men were set on the horses in a riding posture, and fastened to them by an iron stake; and these were placed at certain distances from each other round the monument.

The funerals of private persons resembled that of their Monarchs, only in an inferior degree. The nearest relation to the deceased, caused his body, after embalming, to be carried in a chariot from one relation or friend to another; where they were feasted by all, and part of the provisions were set before the deceased. At the end of forty days the corpse was put into the ground, and the attendants purified themselves by a fumigation of hemp-seed; which, thrown on burning stones, emitted a fragrance, whereof they were extremely fond. This they substituted to the ablutions used by most other nations; never making use

of water for any of the purposes of cleanliness. Even the women, instead of washing, anointed themselves with a paste made of cypress, cedar, and frankincense, which they suffered to lie on a whole night. Their chief feasts were at the obsequies of the dead; they being originally a very sober people; though after their settling in *Wandalia*, the vices of their neighbours must in some measure infect them, as it also made an alteration in their idolatry.

If we allow that the *Scythians* descended from *Magog*, the son of *Japhet*, we cannot doubt but they had at first a knowledge of the true God, but ignorance and superstition at length prevailed over truth, and they fell into idolatry. Their principal Deity was *Tabiti*, whose attributes were much the same as those of the Goddess *Vesta*; *Papeus*, the same as *Jupiter*, and *Apia*, or the earth, were the two next; they had several others, but the God of war seems to have been their favorite divinity. To him they dedicated groves, and erected altars. In their groves they generally endeavoured to have one or more oaks of an enormous size, which was esteemed so sacred, that to
lop

lop the smallest branch of it, or wound the bark, was a sacrilege they punished with the cruellest deaths. They sprinkled these trees so plentifully with the blood of their victims, that the oldest of them were even incruited with it *.

The altars were composed of a great number of faggots, on the top was erected an old iron scymitar, as an emblem of the Deity. To this they not only offered all sorts of cattle, as to their other Gods, but horses, and every hundredth man whom they took prisoner from their enemies. This horrid sacrifice was performed in the following manner. They first poured wine on the captive's head, then cutting his throat, received the blood into a bowl, which carrying to the top of the altar, they washed the sword with it. They then cut off the right arm of the victim close to the shoulder, and throwing it up into the air, left it and the body exposed in the places where they fell.

Their other victims were knocked down at once by the Priests, and afterwards strangled; the Deity to whom they were offered,

* *Keysser's Antiq. Septentr.*

being at the same time invoked. When the beast was dead, they flead and boiled it, and after throwing part of it before the altar as an offering, they eat the rest. They devoted to their Gods the first fruits of their ground, of their cattle, and of the spoil taken in war.

In their different migrations they adopted some of the Deities of those whose lands they seized, and of the neighbouring nations; and in time came to worship the same Divinities, as were adored by the rest of the northern people, of whom the chief were the *Sun* and *Moon*, *Woden*, *Thor*, *Frigga* or *Tuisto*, *Hesus*, and *Nocca*. To the God of war, they gave the name of *Woden*; *Thor*, his son, presided over the air, and was sovereign director of the weather; *Frigga*, the wife of *Woden*, was the Goddess of Pleasure; *Nocca* was God of the sea. beside these they worshipped the *Dysæ*, inferior Goddesses, employed as messengers by *Woden*, whose chief office was to convey the souls of such as died in battle to his abode, called *Valhall*, or the House of Slaughter, where they were to drink with him and their other Gods, a sort of malt liquor

liquor in the skulls of their slaughtered enemies.

These people are said to have first left their country about 1200 years before the birth of our Saviour, under the conduct of *Eric* their King. Some ages after, another colony came out of *Scandinavia*, who conquered those first settled in the provinces I have mentioned; but desiring only to share their possessions, not totally to expel them, the conquerors and the conquered united, and soon became one people *.

Ant. Ch.

1200

Eric.

Five hundred and ninety-five years before the birth of our Saviour, they were governed by a Prince named *Skalk*, whom *Helgon*, King of *Denmark* after having conquered the *Baltic* islands, attacked, and defeated in a pitched battle. He then laid waste *Wandalia*, and rendered it a state dependant on, and tributary to *Denmark*. *Skalk* was not the only Prince in the northern part of *Germany* subdued by *Helgon*. *Hunding* Prince of *Saxony* shared the same fate, and having prevailed on his conque-

Ant. Ch.

595

Skalk.

* *Jernandes rer. Goth.*

ror, after the defeat of the *Saxon* army, to refer the contested sovereignty to a single combat, was slain by him. One particular recorded of *Helgon* gives a favourable idea of his disposition. His first act of sovereignty in his new acquisitions, was a law which ordained the same punishment for the murder of a slave, as of a free man *. A proof of a more extensive benevolence, and a nobler mind, than was common in an age, when ignorance favoured general cruelty, and private tyranny. When *Roric* or *Rodoric* ascended the throne of *Denmark*, the *Vandals* refused the tribute, which they were accustomed to pay from the time of their subjection to that crown. To support the independance thus asserted, they equipped a fleet, but *Roderic*, with superior force attacked it, and by destroying part, so much intimidated the remainder, that they dared not venture again out of port.

Ant. Ch.

483

In this general consternation, one brave *Vandal*, superior in courage and stature to the rest of his countrymen, for extraordi-

* Hist. de *Danemarc* par *Des Roches*.

nary fize was a necessary qualification for an hero in former times, offered to engage any *Dane* in single combat, on condition, that if he conquered, his country should be exempt from tribute; promising, on the contrary, in the name of his Princes, that if he was vanquished, *Wandalia* should submit to the payment.

By the King of *Denmark's* accepting this offer, we have reason to imagine that he had received little advantage from his victory over the *Wandalian* fleet. A *Dane* was found as jealous of the honour of his country, as the *Vandal* was of the liberty of his nation. He therefore accepted the challenge, but was defeated.

The *Vandal* seemed now to have succeeded to his utmost wish, but though he had done all that the interest of his country required, it appears that he had not sufficiently gratified his own vanity; and believing himself invincible, he hazarded the regained liberty of *Wandalia*, on the success of another combat. He gave a new challenge, and the unhappy fate of his first antagonist did not discourage a se-

cond *Dane* from accepting the defiance. The *Vandal* fell a sacrifice to his own presumption; the *Dane* conquered, and *Wandalia* became once more tributary to *Denmark* *.

From this period, little account is to be gathered of *Wandalia* till about the time of our Saviour's birth, when *Strunic*, or as some call him, *Hutterus*, reigned over the *Vandals*; and weary of a subjection unsuccessfully contested by so many of his predecessors, made a descent on the coasts of *Jutland*. *Eric*, General, and prime Minister, to *Frotho* the Third, King of *Denmark*, assembled a body of forces, and a squadron of eight ships, with which he set sail, and came up with the *Wandalian* fleet; when putting them to flight, he drove them back into their own ports.

This small advantage was not sufficient to content *Eric*, who, careful for the ease and security of his countrymen, determined to punish these rebellious vassals, whose courage and impatience of subjection continually led them to resist the yoke

* *Pontanus rer. Dan. Hist.*

they could not shake off. He hoped by taking a severe revenge for this last insult, to leave the power of *Denmark* so strongly impressed on their minds, as might for many years deter them from offending a Prince, so capable of giving them proper chastisement.

He prevailed with the King to raise a numerous army, and equip a proportionable fleet, in order to subdue their untamed spirits. *Strunic* was soon acquainted with these formidable preparations, and sensible of the inequality of his forces, endeavoured by the humblest submissions, to mitigate the anger of the Prince he had rashly offended; but *Frotbo* had not assembled so many troops to obtain a verbal reparation, which being only the effect of fear, would not, when the danger was removed, bind a people who esteemed liberty a natural right, of which nothing could justly dispossess them, nor consequently deprive them of a title to recover. He refused to accept any conditions; and gave the command of his troops to *Eric*, with orders to punish the *Wandalians* with the utmost severity.

Eric

Eric performed this command with too strict obedience; he entered *Wandalia*, laid waste the country, and gave no quarter to the enemies troops, which he several times defeated. *Strunic* himself perished in the general slaughter, and left the people in the utmost distress and consternation; destitute of a Leader, and surrounded by enemies.

In this extremity, resistance was vain. The *Vandals* had no resource but in submission, and in the hope that the conqueror would not totally destroy an unresisting people. Their intreaties prevailed; the slaughter ceased; and *Frotho* having assumed, in consequence of the success of his arms, the title of King of the *Vandals*, they hoped to be protected like his other subjects. But the brave, however low reduced, are still objects of terror to the Prince who is too jealous of his power. *Frotho*, who considered the conquered *Vandals* as formidable enemies, apprehended that despair might in so fierce a people supply the place of numbers.

The timorous are seldom just, and never merciful. *Frotho* caused a proclamation
to

to be published in *Wandalia*, wherein he declared his intention of undertaking a considerable war; and large rewards were offered to such as would repair to his banners.

Many of the *Vandals* saw with pleasure the approaches of a war, which might, by weakening his forces, or by embarrassing his affairs, afford them a favourable opportunity of at least lightening the yoke, they impatiently bore. But, as in all other nations, so among the *Vandals*, to whom luxury, the great corruptor of man, was unknown, private views took place: some induced by necessity, and more still from a greediness of gain, learnt by the long exercise of piracy, which their situation greatly favoured, joined the King's forces.

Frotho, who, in the midst of an army ready to execute his commands, was absolute in authority, caused the whole multitude of *Vandals* to be seized, and put almost all of them to death.

The little success that attended the *Vandals* in their contests with their northern neighbours, induced them to seek for better

ter

A. D. ter fortune on the other side of their country. In conjunction with the *Marcomanni* and *Quadi*, in the year 166, in the reign of
166 *Dieteric*. *Dieteric*, they invaded the *Roman* empire, plundered several cities, and put to flight the *Roman* armies; till they were attacked in their trenches by the two Emperors *Marcus Aurelius*, and *Antoninus Verus*, near the town of *Quileia*. Here they made a very vigorous resistance, but at length were overcome with great slaughter, and pursued by the Emperors till they were entirely dispersed.

The immediate approach of the winter, prevented any farther hostilities at that time: but as soon as the weather would permit, *Marcus Aurelius* marched against the *Vandals* and their allies. He attacked and received a considerable check from them near the *Danube*. Above twenty thousand of his men were slain, and the rest of his army constrained to fly, being closely pursued by the enemy as far as *Aquileia*, which must have fallen into their hands, had not the Emperor rallied his troops, and repulsed their attempt. This disgrace only served to animate the *Romans*; they would
not

not suffer the indignity they had received A. D. to pass unrevenged; but so harassed the *Vandals* by frequent and successful attacks, that they were reduced to submit to such conditions, as the Emperor chose to impose upon them*: but this nation still appeared so formidable to the *Romans*, that the Emperor *Caracalla* boasted much of the great service he had done the empire, by sowing dissention among this people, whereby he had prevented them turning their forces against the *Romans*.

The massacre which had been made of the *Vandals* by *Frotho*, seems to have deterred them from contesting the dominion of the *Danes*, till *Dieteric* was encouraged *Dieteric.* to assert the freedom of his country by the 176 deplorable condition of the kingdom of *Denmark*, which after a long war with *Sweden*, wherein their King perished, was divided into several small states. The *Vandals*, ready to seize every opportunity of delivering themselves from an odious subjection, refused longer to pay a tribute, which none of the *Danish* Princes were sufficient-

* *Mascon's Hist. of Germany.* *Echard's Hist. of Rome.*

ly powerful to extort from them. They remained independant for eighty-four years, when all *Denmark* being again united under one Sovereign, *Harald* the Third demanded the tribute so long omitted; and was so well prepared to reduce them to submit, that *Alberic* the First, their King, did not venture to contend with this formidable Prince*. The esteem *Harald* conceived for this people, appears by the desire he entertained of attaching some of them in an especial manner to his service. Two of these, the one named *Duke*, the other *Dal-lot*†, rendered themselves famous by their warlike exploits, and were ranked among his chief Captains, being employed by him on the most arduous occasions. One of them distinguished himself by a descent on *Britain*, the other by ravaging *Acquitaine*; in both places causing great desolation, and carrying off considerable booty, the common incentive to war among the northern nations in these early times; who seldom aimed at preserving the conquered land, their incursions and invasions being only

Alberic I.

A. D.

261

* *Pontanus* de rer. *Dan.*

† *J. Meursii* Hist. *Dan.*

so many robberies; to which perhaps they were rather instigated by necessity than ambition, as the coldness of their climate, joined with their ignorance in the science of agriculture, prevented the earth from yielding them a plentiful support. A. D.

In the second year of the Emperor *Aurelian's* reign, the *Vandals*, in conjunction with some of their neighbouring Princes, taking advantage of his being engaged in a war with the *Suevians*, invaded *Italy*; where the devastations they committed spread a general terror, and caused such confusion in *Rome*, that the Emperor was obliged to hasten with all possible speed to its defence.

Aurelian took the first opportunity of engaging with the enemy; the two armies fought from the rising to the setting of the sun, with extreme obstinacy. The greatest part of the Emperor's troops fell in this battle; but as soon as he had reinforced his army, he repaired the loss, by obtaining three considerable victories over the *Vandals*, wherein great numbers were slain*; but their valour had so far gained his

* *Flav. Vopisc. in vitæ Aurel.*

esteem,

A. D. esteem, that out of the prisoners he had taken, he incorporated two thousand into his own troops. The few that remained were suffered to return into their own country, being furnished with provisions for so long a journey, after delivering up some of the principal persons amongst them for hostages.

But notwithstanding so great a defeat, we find that some of that nation were auxiliaries to *Zenobia*, Queen of *Palmira*,
 273 about the year 273; for in the victory the Emperor *Aurelian* gained over that unhappy Princess, the *Vandals* shared her misfortunes, and made a part of those various nations, which served to render the victor's triumph so resplendant; who led captive at his chariot wheels, besides the Queen *Zenobia*, people of above fifteen different nations.

In conjunction with the inhabitants of other parts of *Germany*, the *Vandals* again disturbed the peace of the *Roman* empire, in the reign of the Emperor *Probus*, by over-running *Gaul*: and so formidable were they, that it required all that Emperor's valour to repel their incursions. They
 opposed

opposed the *Roman* armies in many battles, one of which was fought with such obstinacy, that it continued with unparalleled fury for two days; the darkness of the night only separating the combatants, till they recovered strength to engage with redoubled rage: but at length *Probus* obtained a compleat victory. We are told, that no less than 40,000 *Vandals* and *Germans* perished in this war.

We may reasonably imagine that the *Vandals*, to whom that Emperor gave settlements in *Great Britain*, were some of the prisoners taken in this defeat. They were grateful for so mild a treatment, did him considerable services in this island, and contributed towards keeping the *Britons* in subjection*.

In the reign of *Siward* King of *Denmark*, the *Vandals*, under the conduct of their King *Ismar*, or *Wismar*, successor to *Alberic*, ever ready to seize a favourable opportunity, took advantage of a war between the *Swedes* and *Danes*, wherein the latter had suffered very severely, and invaded *Cymbria*, now *Jutland*. As *Si-*

A. D.
340
Ismar.

* *Zozimus*.

ward was too much embarrassed by his most powerful enemy, the King of *Suæden*, to make any immediate opposition to these new invaders, they had leisure to lay waste the whole country, till the distress of the *Cymbrians* became so great, and the general apprehensions of these new conquerors so alarming, that *Siward* was obliged to lead his army against them. Flushed with their late success, and en-

Meicseflaw

I. who had newly ascended the throne, they readily gave him battle, but were vanquished. This alloy of ill fortune did not discourage the *Vandals*, they

A. D. levied a new and greater army, and re-
 341 turned into *Cymbria*, where they defeated the *Danish* troops, slew many of them, and put the rest to flight; whom they pursued with the greatest vigour, driving them from place to place. The King escaped their vigilance, but they took prisoners his son *Farmeric*, and his two daughters*. The former they closely confined, but sold the two princesses by public sale; who were carried by their purchasers,

* *Pontanus Meursius.*

the one into *Norway*, the other into *Germany*. After this victory, the *Vandals*, with ease, took possession of *Cymbria*.

Siward, as soon as he could raise a new army, led it against the *Swedes* in *Scania*, where they had made great ravages, and was slain in a very obstinate battle, in which the *Swedish* General likewise perished*.

By the death of *Siward*, a brave, though unfortunate Prince, the condition of *Denmark* was rendered still more deplorable. The *Vandals* were in possession of *Cymbria*, the *Swedes* had seized *Scania* and *Halland*; so that the kingdom was now reduced to little more than the isles of *Zealand* and *Fionia*. But what still more depressed the *Danes*, was the imprisonment of their Prince *Jarmeric*, with whose valour they were well acquainted. *Butbl*, his uncle, was the only one remaining of the Royal Family, a man so weak in understanding, and so devoid of courage, that no advantage could be expected from his administration; but from a regard to hereditary right, they placed him on the throne, where,

* Ibid.

according to their expectations, he continued inactive and obscure*.

Jarmeric still remained in *Wandalia*, but in various situations. The *Vandals* growing weary of confining him in prison, condemned him to till the ground with slaves of less note; who, as we have before observed, were under the direction of the shepherds. He had not long undergone this labour, when he was promoted to the command of a certain number of them. He executed this office so well, and distinguished himself by so superior a capacity, that he was in a short time raised to posts of greater importance, when he became intimately known to the King; to whom his agreeable, and useful qualifications so well recommended him, that he possessed the first place in his favour. Though *Jarmeric* was in this respect more fortunate than in any state of captivity he could have reasonably expected, yet having a title to a crown, he did not find his wishes satisfied with being the favourite of an inferior monarch; especially as he was still seen in

* Ibid.

the light of a prisoner, and watched with great care. Thus dissatisfied with his condition, the chief use he intended to make of *Ismar's* favour, was to procure the means of escaping from servitude. He imparted this resolution to *Gunno*, a *Dane*, who had been imprisoned with him. That young man fortified him in his intention, and agreed to be his companion in the enterprize.

They had waited some time for a favourable opportunity, when the death of the King's brother administered an occasion, which they immediately embraced. According to the established custom among the *Vandals*, *Ismar*, to celebrate his brother's funeral, had invited all the chief persons in the kingdom to a feast at the house of the deceased. *Farmeric* had been left in the palace with the Queen, and found himself too narrowly watched to escape without the aid of some stratagem. With the assistance of *Gunno*, he contrived to make his guards drunk; and when they were too much intoxicated to resist, he killed them.

A. D.
346

This unnecessary cruelty occasioned some noise, which was heard by the Queen, who came to enquire the cause of it; but her presence gave no disturbance to a man in whom cruelty seems to have been a predominant quality. *Gunno* immediately slew her*; they then ransacked the King's treasury; and after taking away all that was valuable, and as some authors say, setting fire to the house where the King was feasting, they fled towards *Denmark*, with the utmost expedition.

As soon as the *Vandals* came to the knowledge of what had passed, they pursued the fugitives; who, after having rode the horses on which they first set out, till they dropped down dead, continued their journey on foot: but this was so slow a method of travelling, that they were very near being overtaken by the *Vandals*; when they came to a river, over which there was a wooden bridge. *Farmeric* and *Gunno*, after passing it, cut this bridge so far asunder as rendered it incapable of bearing any considerable weight, though the defect did not

* Ibid,

appear to the eye. Having laid this snare for their enemies, they concealed themselves on the banks of the river.

Their pursuers soon arrived, and attempting to pass the bridge on horseback, it broke and let them all fall into the river. Some of them were immediately drowned, others having recourse to swimming, reached the shore, where *Jarmeric* and his companion attacking them to much advantage, slew them without great difficulty; and continued their flight, free from farther interruption.

Jarmeric was received in *Denmark*, with the greatest demonstrations of joy; his Uncle resigned the throne to him, and the people saw him ascend it with the extreamest satisfaction *.

His first enterprize was against the *Swedes*, of whom he recovered all they had taken from *Denmark*. He had no sooner compleated this conquest, than he marched into *Cymbria*, whence he drove the *Vandals*, and re-united that country to *Denmark*.

* *Pentanus*.

Farmeric, not contented with having thus restored the kingdom of *Denmark* to its former extent, resolved to subdue those who had been his conquerors; and for this purpose led a numerous army towards *Wandalia*. Some bodies of troops met him on the frontiers, whom he defeated, and soon opened himself a free passage into their country; where, to intimidate the people, he caused forty of the prisoners he had taken to be tied to gibbets, and as many wolves to be fastened to them, who soon devoured those unhappy wretches. This was the *Danish* punishment for robbers.

Farmeric, at this time, met with little more resistance from the *Vandals*. They agreed to pay him a yearly tribute; and having posted some troops in convenient places in the country, to keep them in subjection, he led his army against the *Curetes*.

The *Vandals* had never suffered from any foreign power the oppression now inflicted upon them. They could not support the tyranny of the *Danish* soldiers; and as *Farmeric* was engaged at
some

some distance, they murdered those troops; and equipping a fleet, made an irruption into *Denmark*, from whence they carried a considerable booty.

Farmeric, on receiving an account of their rebellion, desisted from the enterprize in which he was engaged, and hastened to the defence of his kingdom. His fleet met that of the *Vandals* and entirely defeated it. On this occasion, *Farmeric*, fertile in cruel inventions, found out a new punishment for the rebels; for having selected those whom he thought most guilty, he ordered that leather thongs should be passed between the two bones of their legs; and by these they were tied to the feet of an equal number of bulls, who were driven into the mountains, with bull-dogs pursuing them. This dreadful punishment intimidated the *Vandals* to so great a degree, that they submitted to whatever terms the King of *Denmark* chose to impose upon them*.

Their obedience, however, was not of long continuance. *Farmeric*, whose dis-

* *Meursius*.

position was naturally fierce and warlike, was led into intemperance and voluptuousness, by the pernicious arts of a treacherous favourite. This alteration of manners in the King of *Denmark*, encouraged the *Vandals* to renounce his authority; and as they could not hope this action would pass unrevengeed, they judged it adviseable to attack the *Danes* while appearances of a general peace lulled them into security, and its consequent remissness: accordingly they invaded *Cymbria*, and plundered the country.

Farmeric was not so intirely immersed in voluptuousness as not to be roused by this insult. He assembled his troops, and gave the *Vandals* a total defeat, wherein he took many prisoners; the chief of whom he caused to be tied to the tails of horses, and thus dragged about in the fields till they expired. He then carried his arms into *Wandalia*, laid waste the country, and committed cruelties too horrid, and too detestable to relate.

The *Vandals* had experienced the consequence of their attacks on the *Roman* empire, and that, with the little prospect of suc-

succeeding in any designs against *Den-* D. A.
mark, induced them to remain peaceably
 in their own country, till the beginning
 of the fifth century; when having mul-
 tiplied extremely by so long a peace, they
 were become too populous for the portion
 of land they possessed. To provide them-
 selves, therefore, with a more plenteous
 settlement, they, in the reign of the Empe-
 ror *Honorius*, being joined by their neigh-
 bours the *Goths*, poured such numbers
 into the *Roman* empire, as threatened
 it with destruction. They were led by 405
Radagaisus, or *Radagastis*, their King*, *Radagai-*
 whose army is said to have amounted to *sis.*
 200,000 men, besides an equal number
 of attendants, women and children; for
 as their intention was to find themselves
 a new abode, it was fit they should be
 accompanied with their wives and fa-
 milies. *Honorius*, alarmed by the ap-
 proach of so formidable an enemy, joined
 as many of the *Huns* and *Alans* to his
 army as were inclined to assist him; and
 even invited slaves to take up arms, by

* *Zeximus.*

the promise of liberty; a measure which strongly evinces the great terror the *Vandals* had impressed on the Emperor's mind; for the *Romans* never took this method of increasing their armies, except when the state was reduced to the most imminent danger.

Radagaisus passed the *Alps* unmolested, and marched through good part of *Italy*, in confident hope of getting possession of *Rome*. He was a Heathen, and superstitiously devout; he therefore performed daily sacrifices to his Gods. The citizens of *Rome*, many of whom were still in heart Idolaters, encouraged by his approach, publicly expressed their discontent; declaring, "That they must fall a
 "prey to *Radagaisus*, not by the means
 "of his superior forces, but because the
 "favour of the Gods would secure his
 "success; since he with sincere devotion
 "worshipped the Deities, which the *Romans*
 "had ungratefully discarded; nor
 "could this be prevented, but by the
 "Emperor's abolishing the innovations of
 "Christianity, and restoring the worship
 "of those Gods, under whose protection
 "the

“the *Romans* had risen to so great a height of glory.”

Stilicho, *Honorius's* General, was too prudent to offer battle to so numerous an army in the open country, as their great multitudes would have enabled them to surround him. He suffered them to advance as far as *Hebruria*, now called *Tuscany*, where the high mountains, and narrow vallies, would afford him opportunities of engaging them to advantage.

Radagaisus invested *Florence**, which *Stilicho* had well provided with every thing requisite to enable its inhabitants to endure a long siege. The delay this occasioned in *Radagaisus's* progress, wearied his troops, and gave the *Romans* time to recover from their consternation. *Stilicho*, after harassing him by frequent skirmishes, at last attacked his army with such success, that he destroyed near an hundred thousand of them, without sustaining any considerable loss.

Radagaisus removed with his army to the mountains of *Fesula*; where he was indeed secure from being attacked by

* *Paulinus* in vit. *St. Amb.*

the *Romans*, but was exposed to as certain destruction, from the barrenness of the country around him, which could not afford subsistence for so great a body of people. Here they were closely besieged by *Stilicho*; who saw that by confining them to that spot, he should obtain an effectual victory, tho' it might not be so glorious as if gained by the sword.

Radagaisus on this occasion seems to have forgot, that the duty of a King is equal to that of a good parent, who will not procure his own safety, by hazarding that of his children. Instead of attempting to force his way through the *Roman* camp, with that irresistible courage which despair alone can inspire, he determined to escape privately; hoping, that unaccompanied by any but his sons, he might elude the vigilance of the besiegers. Thus he fled from his camp, leaving his troops in such confusion at the discovery of his departure, as when added to their other distresses, must render their destruction unavoidable.

He obtained no benefit by abandoning the men, whom he had led into so distressed

distressed and dangerous a situation; for he and his sons were taken by the *Romans* in their flight; and soon after put to death *. His deserted troops, almost perished for want of food, were obliged to surrender without conditions; and were sold for slaves in whole droves like cattle; but little to the advantage of the purchasers; for long fasting, and the bad treatment they afterwards received, caused such a general sickness among them, that few escaped death.

The honours paid to *Stilicho* on account of this victory, are a convincing proof that the *Vandals* were esteemed a formidable enemy; for the *Romans* erected a statue of brass to his memory, as an acknowledgement of this signal service.

This peace was of but short duration: for the last day of that year †, another army of *Vandals* entered *Gaul*, under the conduct of *Godegisles*, one of their Kings. Some historians affirm that they were invited by *Stilicho*, who hoped by their assistance to place his son *Eucherius* on the imperial

* *Orosius*.

† *Ibid. Zozimus*.

throne:

throne: an invitation the *Vandals* were doubtless willing to accept, as a famine in their own country was an additional incentive to seek for a more plenteous land.

In attempting to pass the *Rhine*, they were attacked by the *Franks*, then in alliance with the *Romans*. These people killed near 20,000 of the *Vandals*, and would probably have destroyed them all, had not the latter been joined by the *Suevi* and *Alani*; by whose assistance they repulsed the *Franks*, and entered *Gaul*; which they over-ran, and ravaged in a most cruel manner; having been joined by the *Burgundians*, and other barbarous nations; who were also attracted by the desire of plunder, or invited by *Stilicho* to assist him in deposing *Honorius*, if he really had such ambitious designs.

No opposition was made to the *Vandals* and their allies, till *Constantine*, who had been proclaimed Emperor in *Britain*, by the legions stationed there, passed over into *Gaul*. He then attacked the *Vandals*, and by defeating them in several battles, reduced their Chiefs to ask for peace; which he granted without requiring them
to

to retire out of the country; perhaps from a design of procuring their assistance to establish himself on the throne; to which he had been elected by the suffrages of a small body of troops.

If such was his view, he received a considerable disappointment; for soon after *Geroncius*, to whom *Constans*, the son of *Constantine*, had committed the government of *Spain*, having revolted, proclaimed one *Maximus* Emperor, with whom the *Vandals*, *Alans*, and *Suevians* entered into an alliance, and seized several cities in *Gaul*.

The *Gauls* seeing little reason to hope for any powerful succours from *Rome*, when the empire was so infeebled by intestine divisions, determined to exert their utmost power to defend themselves; and did it with such success, that they gained several victories over their enemies. The *Vandals*, discouraged by this unexpected opposition, chose to abandon *Gaul*, and try their fortune in *Spain*. Under the conduct of *Gundericus*, who succeeded *Godiglfes*, they passed the *Pyrenean* mountains; and soon got possession of many
E strong

A. D.

410

Gundericus.

they could not cultivate, shared them with
 A. D. the *Wendi*; and uniting with them in an ami-
 613 cable manner, they soon became one people
Visilaus under King *Visilaus* the Third. The different
 III. inhabitants of this part of *Wandalia* were
 now no longer distinguished by the name
 of *Vendi* or *Wendi*, but often confounded
 in the common appellation of *Sclavons*;
 a word, about whose derivation the learned
 have much differed; but which, with as
 great probability, and more agreeably to
 the people themselves, is by some derived
 from *Slaws*, which in the *Sclavonian*
 tongue signifies *Glory*, and perhaps was
 assumed in honour of the valuable and
 noble acquisition they had made of a
 country very superior to their own*.

The territory which had received the
 name of *Wandalia*, reached from the *Vis-
 tula* to the mouth of the *Elbe*, compre-
 hending the isle of *Rugen*, and part of
Pomerania; *Wagria*, which contained the
 territory about *Lubec*; and *Abodriti* and
Heruli, now the dutchy of *Mecklenburgh*,

* Intro. à l'Hist. de l'Univ. par *De la Marti-
 niere*.

and county of *Schuerin*. Each of these provinces had its separate Prince and state, and distinguished itself in war; but none obtained such reputation as the *Abodrites*. However, the accounts of those ages are so confused, that nothing very certain or material can be collected concerning the internal state and government of a people, too much devoted to arms to bestow much time on the cultivation of literature. Their history, likewise, is much perplexed by the confusion made in the names of the inhabitants of the northern parts of *Germany*.

After the *Franks* had conquered *Lorraine* and *Gaul*, ambitious of extending their empire to the north, they endeavoured to force many of the *German* nations to submit to their dominion. The *Abodrites* are in history sometimes included among the *Saxons*, at others among the *Sclavonians*, when they are represented struggling for their liberty: but at length we find them, weary of a fruitless and never-ending contention with a superior power, becoming submissive tri-

butaries to *Pepin*, and *Charlemagne*, Kings of *France*.

The whole nation of the *Saxons* had been frequently subdued, and often endeavoured to recover their liberty. On the other hand, the *Abodrites*, who found the dominion of these Princes less oppressive than that of more neighbouring states, became so well pleased with the *French*, who were rather their protectors than their masters, that they continued faithfully attached to them, and often suffered for their fidelity.)

Charles the Great, or *Charlemagne*, who was the first of his race that received from the Pope the title of Emperor of the West,

A. D. was as desirous to convert, as to conquer.
 779 About the year 779, in the reign of *Ari-*
Aribert. *bert*, King of the *Abodrites*, he marched at the head of an army into *Saxony*, and assisted at a Diet; where he prevailed so far, as to procure some very useful laws to be enacted, and security to be given him, for the safety of such persons as he should send among them, to preach the Christian religion. He then advanced into the country of the *Abodrites*, and presided

presided at their Diet: where he made many regulations for the advantage of the state, and obtained the strongest assurances, that such Clergy as he should send to instruct them in the Christian doctrine, should meet with a favourable reception.

Charles was too zealous to delay taking advantage of the assurances he had received; he sent thither Missionaries of all ranks, recommending to them great application to their duty, and a constant care to inculcate into the minds of the people, the purity of the Christian morals, to teach them a true sense of decency and virtue; to endeavour to humanize their dispositions; and to bring the savage fierceness of their tempers, and their too lawless manners, under the restraints of reason and religion*. Policy might have some share in this instance of the Emperor's apparent zeal, since to civilize them was the most probable means of rendering them obedient to their Prince, for nothing but an impetuous and irrational valour could

* *Eginard in Vit. Carol. Mag.*

make a nation, comparatively so small, venture to offend.

< If the *Abodrites* sometimes suffered for their fidelity to the Emperor, he left them not long to feel the ill effects of it. *Wit-kind*, Duke of *Saxony*, desirous to shake off all subjection to the Imperial crown, levied a considerable army; and to prevent *Charles* from taking umbrage at it, pretended that the *Abodrites* had invaded *Saxony*, for which he was arming to chastise them.

Charles, who was not a Prince easily deceived, nor yet inclined to suffer his allies to be oppressed, entered *Saxony*, and obliged the Duke to quit his enterprize against the *Abodrites*, and to give him battle, in which the *Saxons* received a total overthrow *. This victory secured the *Abodrites* for some time from any attacks on that side; but about ten years after, they were obliged to apply to their protector for assistance against the *Wils*, a tribe of the *Sclavonians* situated on the *Baltic* sea, who harassed them extreme-

* Ibid.

ly *. *Charles* hastened to their relief, and in his passage through *Saxony* took the whole force of that country with him. To secure his safe return, he raised two bridges on the *Elbe*, which he strongly fortified, and left a considerable force to defend them. He then gave the *Saxons* leave to enter the country of the *Wils*, and pillage it to the utmost of their power. The *Saxons* were very proper for this employment, they being used to plunder, and were well acquainted with the country. They therefore performed their commission so effectually, that the *Wils* were glad to submit on any conditions; and were thus added to the number of the Emperor's vassals. >

A. D.
794

The *Saxons* gave, about two years after, a very severe proof of the hatred they bore to the King of the *Abodrites*, for his attachment to the Emperor, to whom he was nearly allied, having married *Hildegard*, sister to the Empress *Fastrada*. That Prince came to a general assembly of the northern nations, held by the Emperor on the river *Elbe*, and was received

* *Egin.* in *Annal.*

by

by *Charles*, with the distinction due to a faithful ally. This favourable reception added envy to the hatred the *Saxons* had already conceived against him, and determined them to seek his destruction. Accordingly, as he was returning home, attended only by such as he thought necessary for state, without providing for his own defence where he apprehended no enemy, the *Saxons* assassinated him.

A. D.
788

This action exasperated *Charles* too much to be passed over unrevenged. He resolved to punish the whole principality, or tribe, of those who had committed this murder, and gave up them and their possessions to the discretion of his army; who slaughtered many thousands, and entirely laid waste the country.

The regard the Emperor had thus shewn to the King of the *Abodrites*, together with his presence in their country, had so great an influence upon them, that they accepted a King of his nomination.

Thrasico.

Thrasico their new Monarch did not long enjoy his dignity unmolested. *Godfrey,*

frey, King of *Denmark*, a valiant and ambitious Prince, beheld with envy *Charles's* extensive empire; and could but ill bear to see it increased by nations, who had before been vassals to *Denmark*.

<The *Abodrites* were exposed to feel the most cruel effects of the hatred which *Charles's* success excited against him; for those who dared not attack so powerful an enemy, indulged themselves in laying waste the country of these faithful allies. This treatment they had received from the *Saxons* too often to be constantly related; since continual inroads, unattended by any remarkable facts, cannot be enumerated without tediousness. But now they were to feel the rage of a still more potent enemy.

The *Danish* King demanded the tribute so long paid to the crown of *Denmark*; to which his predecessors had never relinquished their right. He required them to pay an hundred white horses, at the accession of every new King of *Denmark*, and at the decease of every Prince of their own nation. The *Abodrites* could

ill

ill support a double vassalage: and therefore presuming on the protection of the Emperor, they took arms, and made some depredations on their enemies dominions.

A. D.

807

Godfrey soon made them repent their rashness; he led a considerable force into their country*; and after defeating their troops, pursued the shattered remains of their army so closely, that *Thrasco* was obliged to leave the kingdom. However, the *Abodrites*, whose courage was not yet subdued, levied fresh troops; of which *Godalaibe*, whom they had substituted in the place of their absent King, had the command: but no better success attended this new army; they were totally vanquished, and *Godalaibe* falling into the enemies hands, was put to death.

Nothing now remained to stop the King of *Denmark's* progress: he therefore obliged the greatest part of the country to acknowledge him their Sovereign, and to pay the required tribute: an advantage which he had gained by the loss of a great number of men on his side;

* *Pontanus.*

many of them persons of the most considerable note in his kingdom.

Though *Godfrey's* conquests had been too rapid to be obstructed by the Emperor, whose forces were near the center of his extensive dominions, yet he sent his son at the head of an army into that country in proper time to prevent the *Danes* from advancing beyond the *Elbe*. The Prince made the *Abodrites* suffer for their forced submission, leaving the country of those who had acknowledged the sovereignty of the King of *Denmark* still more desolate than their enemies had made it.

Godfrey, in whom ambition did not exclude prudence, thought this no fit time to push his conquests. His forces were considerably impaired in the reduction of the *Abodrites*; and the Emperor having no war on his hands, was able to oppose him with all the forces of the empire. The cautious King, therefore, chose to defer the prosecution of his designs to a more convenient season; and endeavoured only to secure what he had already acquired. >
With

A. D. 809 With this view, he sent proper persons to assure the Emperor, That " he had no intention to give him offence; that he " had attacked the *Abodrites*, only in consequence of their having first invaded " his territories; and desired his Imperial Majesty would nominate some place, " where a congress might be held to settle the affair; being himself much more " inclined to submit to the regulations " of justice, than to have recourse to a " decision by force of arms *."

Charles complied with this proposal; but peace was not the consequence; for the Emperor's Ambassadors required, that " *Godfrey* should restore to the *Abodrites* " all he had taken from them; return " their hostages; remit the tribute he had " exacted; cease to give refuge to the " rebellious *Wils*; no longer incite the " Emperor's vassals to revolt; and, moreover, that he should promise never again " to make war on the friends and allies " of the empire."

* Ibid.

The

The King of *Denmark* replied, That
“ he had acted only in his own defence;
“ and all that he had done was justifiable
“ by the law of arms; That he had sought
“ the Emperor’s friendship, in hopes of
“ receiving from it, honour and assistance,
“ and not disgrace and detriment.” Thus
the conference broke off, and hostilities
were renewed*.

∠ *Charles* now sent *Thrasco*, the King of
the *Abodrites*, who had taken refuge at his
court, to assemble such of his subjects as
had continued faithful to him: to these he
added a great body of *Saxon* troops, and
led them into the land of the *Wifsi*, where
they ravaged the whole country; took their
principal city, and obliged them to re-
nounce the friendship of the *Danes*. But
Thrasco’s enjoyment of this success was
of short continuance; for soon after, he,
with a small body of troops, fell into an
ambuscade laid for him by the King of
Denmark, and was slain, while fighting
bravely in his own defence†.

* *Ibid.*† *Ibid.*

Charles again appointed their King, *Sclaomer*. placing *Sclaomer* on the throne; who possessed it for the five remaining years of that Emperor's life, and for some time after his son and successor, *Lewis the Debonaire*, ascended the Imperial throne. He was even employed by him, together with the *Saxons*, to reinstate *Harold* in the kingdom of *Denmark*, from whence he had been excluded by *Regner* his cousin, and partner in power. These troops, accompanied by *Harold*, waited a long time on the banks of the *Elbe*, watching for an opportunity of passing it by the favour of the ice; which the winter season gave them reason to expect. Twice they made the attempt and were as often obliged by a sudden thaw to relinquish their design; nor could they compass it till the month of *May*; when the rivers being frozen they entered *Jutland*, having crossed the *Eyder* in the same manner.

The Kings of *Denmark*, for that kingdom was then under the government of many Princes, drew near, with an army on board a fleet of two hundred sail; but
not

not thinking it advisable to make a descent in the view of the enemy, they posted themselves in an island at the distance of about a league from the continent; and there carefully watched for some favourable opportunity of attacking them to advantage.

The *Saxons* and *Abodrites* perceived their design, and took every means to bring them to an engagement, but without success. Finding themselves uselessly detained there, and deprived of the means of performing any thing considerable, they pillaged and laid waste the frontiers; and taking forty-one hostages, retired home, while *Harold* went to the Emperor to solicit the continuance of his protection: this he granted, and yet the endeavours of some years, could not secure to him the possession of his kingdom.

The *Abodrites*, who had long preserved a very strict fidelity to the Emperors, were at length incited to revolt by *Sclaomir*, who thought himself injured by *Lewis*: and, if we consider how tenacious all

F

Princes

Princes are of their authority, and how ill they can bear a divided throne, we cannot deny, that he had just cause of offence. *Ceudragne*, the son of *Tbrafico* the late King of the *Abodrites*, discontented at seeing another wear his father's crown, solicited the Emperor to restore him to an honour, which, according to the rights of hereditary succession, he might justly claim. However, as this plea was not likely to be very agreeable to a Monarch, who had assumed the privilege of disposing of that crown, he particularly urged the merits of his father, his constant attachment to the Emperor *Charles*, and the death which he suffered in consequence of the services he had done him.

These arguments proved so prevailing, that *Lewis* declared him joint King of the *Abodrites*, and required *Sclaenir* to associate him in the government. *Sclaenir* could not attempt to contend with the Emperor; and yet he rather chose to afflict his country with a destructive war, than to resign a power he had so long enjoyed. The *Danes* alone were able to as-

sist

sist him, and to them he applied; and as they were jealous of the Emperor's superior greatness, and desirous of recovering their sovereignty over the *Abodrites*, they readily sent an army to his aid*.

Though the *Abodrites* suffered extremely by the *Danish* troops, yet *Sclaomir* received no lasting benefit from them. The Emperor's forces defeated his army, took him prisoner, and sent him to *Aix la Chapelle*, where *Lewis* then resided.

Sclaomir was sentenced to death as a rebel, but the Emperor, who was totally void of a vindictive spirit, inflicted upon him no other penalty than banishment.

A. D.
817

The empire being at length weakened by the division, which *Lewis the Debonaire* made of his extensive territory among his children, the declension of the Emperor's power encouraged several countries to withdraw from their subjection; among whom were the *Abodrites*: but *Henry the Fowler*, Emperor of Germany, again subdued them. He endeavoured

* *Egin. Annal.*

likewise to convert these people, and for that purpose, appointed the Bishop of *Holstein* to preach the Christian religion to the King and his subjects. But though we are assured that Prince became a sincere convert, yet that appears to have had but little influence on his kingdom. In about ten years after they revolted, but were once more defeated, and reduced to obedience.

The reigns of the three *Othos* were disturbed by the rebellions of the *Abodrites*, though such revolts always proved destructive to themselves. Their conversion was still so very imperfect, that these Emperors successively sent persons to preach the Christian faith to them; but the impression they made did not long remain; for they returned to idolatry as soon as the Missionaries departed.

Mistevojus

I.
A. D.
986

King *Mistevojus* the First became a seeming convert, and married a Christian for his second wife; but she was so far from establishing him in his faith, that on the contrary she herself became an apostate. This Prince left three sons and one daughter;

M E C K L E N B U R G H.

69

daughter; *Meicislaus* the Second, who married *Sophia*, daughter to the King of *Hungary*; *Naccon*, an unfortunate Prince, who was taken prisoner in a battle with the *Germans*; and *Sidericus*. Their sister *Hodica* became the wife of *Boleslaus* the First King of *Poland*.

Meicislaus was succeeded by his son *Meicislaus*
Mistevojus the Second. This Prince pro- A. D.
 fessed Christianity, and it was probably on .999
 that account that the Emperor *Otho* gave *Mistevojus*.
 him in marriage, *Margaret*, a near re-
 lation of his own. After her death he
 espoused *Matilda*, sister to *Bernard* Duke
 of *Saxony*, who persuaded him to return
 to Paganism; but the absurdities of Ido-
 latry could not satisfy a mind which had
 been acquainted with the satisfactory truths
 of a more rational religion; he therefore
 abjured the Heathen worship, and return-
 ed to the church: but this so highly of-
 fended his subjects, that they drove him
 out of the kingdom; when flying to *Bar-*
dowick near *Luneburgh*, he lived in exile, A. D.
 till his wife *Matilda*, weary of being the 1025

partner of his misfortunes, had the inhumanity to murder him. 7

The *Vandals* were not more true to the Emperors than to their religion; but rebelled so frequently, that at length *Conrad* the Second, Emperor of *Germany*, desirous of totally subduing so restless a people, whose frequent incursions much interrupted the peace of the empire, led his forces against them, slew a great number of the inhabitants, and after laying waste the whole country with fire and sword, imposed a considerable tribute on them. *Mislevojus's* two sons, *Andrachus* and *Udo*, had the same unhappy fate with their father. *Andrachus* was slain at the same time, and *Udo* who had succeeded to the kingdom, was killed by the *Saxons* in 1032, which gave occasion to the restoration of idolatry; for his son *Gothescalc*, who had professed Christianity only in obedience to his father, upon that Prince's decease, returned to his idolatrous worship. His next care was to revenge the death of *Udo*, for which purpose he made frequent inroads into *Saxony*, putting

ting great numbers to the sword; till at length falling into the hands of his enemies, the Duke of Saxony cast him into prison. The *Abodrites*, during his confinement, placed another on the vacant throne: but at length the Duke, pleased with the fortitude *Gothescalc* shewed in his unfortunate circumstances, generously restored him to his liberty.

Gothescalc now seeing no safety for himself in his own country, where the King would behold him with a jealous eye, repaired to *Sveno*, King of *Denmark*; who received him with the distinction due to his rank, and to his misfortunes; and after convincing him of the errors of Paganism, and restoring him to the Church, gave him his daughter *Sygritha* in marriage*.

With such an alliance, it was not very difficult for *Gothescalc* to recover his dominions; and being restored to them, his first desire was to make what reparation he could for his former apostacy: he took every means of re-converting his subjects,

* *Pontanus.*

and for some time appeared successful; but his endeavours to make their actions correspond with their faith, obliging him to correct their vices, gave great offence.

A. D.
1066

This, together with his attachment to the *Danes*, by whom the people on the frontiers were much oppressed, exasperated them so much, that they assassinated him*.

Their rage now exceeded all bounds: they invaded *Holstein* and *Stormaria*; slaughtered the people without distinction of age or sex; burnt the houses; ran sacked, and pulled down the churches, and laid the whole country desolate. They took the town of *Sleswick* by surprize, and pillaged it. *Sygritha*, the Queen-dowager, unfortunately falling into their hands, was treated with the greatest indignity, and afterwards sent into *Denmark* in a deplorable condition. But neither the injuries she had received, nor the ravages the *Abodrites* had committed, could inspire *Sveno* with the spirit of revenge. Their pro-

* Ibid, *Meursius*.

gress had been too rapid to give him time for opposition; and he did not think it worth his while to send an army thither to chastise them, as it must have interrupted his leisure, which he employed much to his satisfaction, in works of piety, and the study of polite literature.

Henry, the son of *Gotthescalc*, then an infant, had the good fortune to be conveyed safely into *Denmark*, where he continued some years*; till being arrived at manhood, he obtained assistance from the *Danes*, who placed him on the throne of the *Abodrites*; but he afterwards gave great offence to *Eric* the Third, King of *Denmark*, by protecting two famous pirates. A. D. 1097

These men had been banished from *Scania*, their native country, on account of the various crimes they had committed, and from that time had lived by piracy, and infested the coasts of the *Baltic*; constantly taking refuge in *Wandalia*, when the season of the year, or the *Danish* fleets, rendered the sea a dangerous station,

* *Pontanus*,

THE HISTORY OF

Eric endeavoured to persuade *Henry* to deny them an asylum so destructive to the *Danes*; but his solicitations were ineffectual. This determined him to try more forcible methods; and accordingly equipping a powerful fleet, he laid siege to the city of *Julinum*, then the capital of *Wandalia*. The inhabitants made a vigorous defence; but *Eric's* superior force rendered their courage fruitless; he took the town, and so much damaged it, that it has never since recovered its ancient lustre. The pirates and the *Danish* fugitives he put to death, in the cruel manner then ordained by the law for such offenders*.

The *Vandals* revenged this treatment by invading the coasts of *Denmark*: in return, *Eric* ravaged *Wandalia*; and though the people did not venture to make any opposition to his superior army, he laid waste the country in such a manner, as terrified them into a more peaceable conduct, till his death abated their apprehensions.

* *Mourfius.*

Henry added the isle of *Rugen* to his dominions, having slain *Eric* the King, and married *Slavine* his widow.

In the reign of *Nicholas*, King of *Denmark*, he demanded some places which having been his mother's dowry, were devolved to him by her death. *Nicholas* was uncle to *Henry*; for he was the youngest brother of *Sueno* and *Sygritha*; but state policy prevailed over a regard to kindred; and he refused to relinquish the places so justly demanded: upon which *Henry* having strengthened himself by an alliance with the *Nordalbinges*, ravaged the duchy of *Sleswick*, and the adjacent country. Having gained over *Elif*, Governor of *Sleswick*, the latter, after privately concerting matters with him, solicited the King of *Denmark* to come to the assistance of that town, and to revenge the insult he had received*.

Nicholas, unsuspicious of any treacherous design, set sail with a large body of infantry for *Wandalia*, and ordered *Elif* to bring a sufficient number of cavalry through

* Ibid.

Holstein to join his army. *Elif* was in no haste to execute these orders; but deceived the King, by urging pretended delays, and promising to repair to him with a considerable force, as soon as he could surmount some obstacles which lay in his way. *Nicholas*, therefore, disembarked his troops, that he might wait for the expected reinforcement with more convenience: when, according to the measures concerted between *Elif* and *Henry*, the latter took advantage of the King's deficiency in cavalry, and attacking him when it was least expected, killed a great part of his army; obliged him to retire to his ships with precipitation, and hastily to return to *Denmark*.

Nicholas perceiving *Elif*'s treachery, deprived him of his government, and confiscated his possessions; but this could not repair the injury he had received. *Henry*, encouraged by success, renewed his inroads into the *Danish* territories, and even invested *Sleswick*; but the city was so well defended by its inhabitants, and *Henry* was so harrassed by their vigorous sallies,

fallies, that he raised the siege, and contented himself with carrying home much spoil.

Canute, nephew to *Nicholas*, took this opportunity of prevailing on his uncle to invest him with the dutchy of *Sleswick**, in order that so valuable a province might not be destitute of a defender; and he had no sooner obtained it, than he applied himself with the greatest diligence to repair the damages his new state had received from the enemy. He then sent Ambassadors to invite *Henry* to a peace, on condition that he should restore all the booty he had taken, and make compensation for the destruction he had brought upon that country; but as he expected no very favourable answer, he put himself in the best condition he was able to force him to an agreement on reasonable terms. This was indeed a necessary caution: for *Henry* told the Ambassadors, That “ he
“ disclaimed all friendship with the *Danes*;
“ and would not cease to demand his in-
“ heritance in the manner he had already

* *Pontanus*.

“ done,

THE HISTORY OF

“ done, till the King thought proper to
“ deliver up to him a possession, to which
“ he had so just a title.”

Canute sent the same persons to declare war against *Henry*; who returning a contemptuous answer, so inflamed the Prince's pride, that he began his march that very evening; and proceeding with all possible speed during the night, appeared by break of day before the castle wherein *Henry* was posted, and laid siege to the place.

Henry had but a small garrison in the fort; his enemy was too vigilant to leave him the least hope of receiving any succours; and the castle was neither sufficiently stored with provisions, nor so strongly fortified, as to afford him a possibility of making a long defence. In this extremity he had no other choice left him, but either to fly, or to fall into the hands of his besieger: little deliberation was requisite to determine which was most eligible; he mounted his horse, and swam across the river which ran at the foot of the castle. *Canute* immediately gave a general assault, took the place by storm, and after
having

having plundered it, returned laden with much booty to *Sleswick*.

The war continued for some time between these two Princes; they had frequent skirmishes, with various success; till at length they came to a decisive action, wherein *Canute* gained a compleat victory, and *Henry* was obliged to save himself by flying to *Lubec*. *Wandakia* was now at the mercy of the conqueror, who revenged on it the ravages which *Henry* had made in his *Danish* dominions.

Henry, moved by the sufferings of his country, now sent to beg the peace which he had before refused to grant. *Canute*, fully satisfied with *Henry*'s submission, and free from suspicion of treachery from an honourable enemy, set out attended by only twenty persons, and with a generous confidence went to *Lubec*, convinced that nothing would so much facilitate the conclusion of the peace as a personal conference. When he drew near the place, he sent word to *Henry* that he was come to receive his proposals. That Prince, little imagining *Canute* had ventured with so small an escort, ordered

ordered all his people to take arms; but being informed how slightly he was attended, asked, "Where the Prince was, and if he should soon see him."

Before the enquiry could be answered, *Canute* arrived; *Henry* ran to meet him, and embracing him tenderly, extolled his magnanimity and generosity. They began by gentle and mutual complaints on the disorders they had suffered their troops to commit, but soon agreed on a lasting amity: for *Canute* engaged to pay a stipulated sum of money, judged equal to the value of the inheritance which had given occasion to the war. The King of *Denmark* would not suffer his nephew to purchase

A. D. this peace, but as justice required, paid
1127 the money himself*.

Mutual esteem confirmed the peace which policy had at first occasioned. And so strict an union subsisted between these Princes during the remainder of their lives, that when *Henry* found his death approaching, he considered *Canute* as the only person proper to succeed him on the

* *Mewsius.*

throne.

throne. His children were not of an age fit to govern; nor was his kingdom sufficiently powerful to defend itself under the disadvantages of a minority: he, therefore, contrary to the persuasions of his Ministers, determined to appoint *Canute* his successor; and to secure him a potent protector, applied to the Emperor *Lotharius* for his approbation of this bequest.

Lotharius, well inclined to any step that confirmed or increased the privileges of the empire, readily gave his consent to *Henry's* design; and acknowledged *Canute* King of the *Abodrites*, with the greater satisfaction, as he had entertained a very high esteem for him *.

Historians are not well agreed, whether *Canute* ascended the throne before the death of *Henry*, or after it; but 'tis certain that he possessed it for many years, together with the dutchy of *Sleswick*; and governed his people with such wisdom, justice, and clemency, as rendered him the object of their sincere affection. Happy would they have been, if no wars had dis-

* Ibid. *Pontanus*.

turbed him from the exercise of his virtues in a peaceful administration; but his dependance on the the King of *Denmark*, in consideration of his dutchy of *Sleswick*, involved him in his quarrels, and exposed him to his envy.

The *Danish* King having engaged in a war with *Wratislas*, Duke of *Sclavonia*, summoned *Canute* to his assistance, who joined him with the stipulated succours.

A. D. 1133. The King of *Poland* having likewise united his forces to theirs, *Wratislas* found himself too weak to contend with them, and therefore desired peace; which he was so eager to obtain, that on the King of *Denmark*'s promise of safety, he came on board his ship, to negotiate the affair in person: but this confidence in the royal word was near proving fatal to him. Some of the King's Ministers suggested to their master, that it would be imprudent to let go an enemy whom he had now in his hands; and that Prince, who was easily led by every adviser, ordered it so, that at the end of the conference, wherein he avoided coming to any conclusion, *Wratislas* was secured,

secured, with an intention of being sent prisoner into *Denmark*.

The King of the *Abodrites* hearing of this proceeding, went immediately to *Nicholas*, and intreated him, not to disgrace his country, and involve himself in perpetual infamy, by so treacherous an action. He urged, That the word of every man should be sacred, but that the breach of it in a King rendered him contemptible to all mankind; and besought him to repair the injury as far as he was able, by instantly restoring the Prince to his liberty, since none but traitors could advise his Majesty to deprive him of it*.

The King, whose greatest fault was too easy a temper, which often led him to contradict the goodness of his natural disposition, released *Wratislas*, and acknowledged his obligation to *Canute* for the regard he had shewn to his honour. Though that Prince was often misled, yet he could not forbear admiring the virtues of his nephew; which inclined many persons about him, who were conscious of their own

* Ibid.

pernicious designs, to fear the influence of *Canute*, whom they had before hated, on account of his merit.

Among this number was *Magnus*, the King's son, with *Haquin*, and *Henry Scattleder*, his cousins. The former had been elected King of *Ostrogothia*. *Canute's* admirable conduct in every capacity, was a constant reproach to the ill behaviour of these young men. *Magnus* especially hated him for his extraordinary virtues*; and the consciousness of his own demerits, made him fear that at King *Nicholas's* death, the *Danes* would pay a greater regard to the superior merits of *Canute*, than to his more immediate hereditary title. He and his accomplices were therefore continually endeavouring to sow suspicions in the King's mind, which they hoped to increase to *Canute's* destruction. Where they could find no faults to aggravate, they endeavoured to make virtues appear criminal. His humanity they represented as the artful popularity of an ambitious man; the

* *Pontanus.*

care he had taken to render *Sleswick* defensible against the enemies of *Denmark*, they attributed to a design of securing to himself a place, from whence he might easily annoy that kingdom, and where he should be sure of a safe retreat. His accepting from the Emperor the title of King of the *Abodrites*, or as some call him, King of the *Vandals*, was brought as a proof of his ambition, and disrespect to the King of *Denmark*; since being a subject, he had assumed the regal title, without asking the permission of his Sovereign. His wearing the royal habit became a heavy charge against him; and *Nicholas* was made to believe, that he waited only a favourable opportunity for attempting to seize the *Danish* crown. The King, who was susceptible of every impression, could not resist the arts of a son he tenderly loved; his mind was filled with suspicions, and he was ready to attribute every action performed by *Canute* to some sinister motive.

While *Canute's* enemies were seeking opportunities to effect his ruin, he was at

once acting the part of a good King, and a faithful subject. The *Abodrites* being much molested by some successful pirates, he equipped a fleet, and so entirely destroyed them, that he rendered the sea safe, and free for commerce. He then turned his conquering arms towards *Sweden*, and reduced some provinces to their allegiance which had revolted from the *Danes*. When he had completed this expedition, he went to the King of *Denmark's* court, where he expected even a more favourable reception than usual, in consideration of the services he had just rendered that Monarch; but to his great surprize, he met only with reproaches, and accusations of ambition. He found all justifications useless; for the prejudiced mind is scarcely capable of conviction. The injuries he received, however, extended no farther than words. *Margaret* Queen of *Denmark*, more clear-sighted than her husband, kept *Canute's* enemies within some bounds. She was sensible of his merit, and was united to him by a tender connexion; for he had married the
daughter

daughter of a sister whom she sincerely loved. But death deprived him of this protectress, and left his enemies more at liberty to pursue their designs.

They then prevailed with the King to become *Canute's* accuser before a general assembly, which he called together for that purpose. The King of the *Abodrites*, who, though he was seated on an independent throne, never forgot he was a subject, repaired thither. *Nicholas* addressed the assembly with grievous complaints against *Canute*; representing as an act of insolence his appearing in the regal habit, and assuming the splendor of Majesty. He called on them to consider the dangers which might arise from so ambitious a spirit, since the thirst of power was a sure incentive to every crime. He assured them, that his fears were not lest his children should be excluded from their father's throne; but that they arose from tender compassion for his subjects, when he reflected on the miseries to which they might be reduced by a civil war.

Canute, with all the courage of conscious innocence, asked permission to say a few words to the assembly; which being granted, he, with less emotion than appeared in any person present, replied: "To avoid just reproach has been the chief study of my life; Can I then fear the false accusations with which my enemies may charge me? Must I defend myself by words, when my actions sufficiently justify me? I submit every part of my conduct to the strictest scrutiny; and with a clear conscience on my side, dare appeal to Him who knows every heart, as the impartial judge of my innocence: I endeavour to make His will the rule of my actions, and He will bear testimony to my integrity. I acknowledge that a foreign people have chosen me for their Sovereign. If to accept a throne be an offence in a subject, is it not so in the son as well as the nephew of a King? Yet who censures Prince *Magnus* for wearing the crown of *Ostrogothia*? I do not deny that I have received some honours in
Sleswick;

“ *Sleswick*; but such only as were due to
 “ my rank. Was not the government of
 “ that dutchy given me by the King him-
 “ self? And have I not used the power so
 “ conferred upon me in his service, and
 “ to the honour of my country? I might
 “ require reparation from my enemies for
 “ such flagrant injustice; but I am not less
 “ able to forgive, than they are to injure;
 “ and with pleasure spare their confusion.
 “ I am very willing, if my presence in
 “ this kingdom is painful to them, to re-
 “ tire to my government. I promise there
 “ to defend the frontiers of *Denmark* on
 “ which I am placed, and to dedicate
 “ every hour of my life to the safety of
 “ my country; nor will I ever use, but
 “ in its service, and for its glory, the
 “ power which I possess independant of
 “ my Sovereign. He concluded, by be-
 seeching heaven to protect the King’s
 life; to preserve his family; to fill his
 subjects with love for him; and his ene-
 mies with fear and respect*.”

* Ibid. *Meursius*.

THE HISTORY OF

The assembly knew too well the whole conduct of the injured Prince, to give any credit to the falsehoods which had been urged against him; and the force of his words, and the commanding innocence of his aspect, convinced the King that he had been unjustly accused. He declared himself satisfied, and acknowledging that he had been deceived, a reconciliation ensued, which at the time was sincere, but of no long continuance. *Magnus* again imposed on his father; *Canute's* destruction was resolved, and some authors affirm, with *Nicholas's* approbation. *Haquin* alone withdrew when he found that *Magnus* aimed at *Canute's* life.

The crime being determined, opportunity only was wanting to put the design in execution. *Magnus* dared not attack openly a Prince so much beloved by the people, that they would unanimously have sacrificed their lives for his safety. Secret treachery is the coward's only resource. *Magnus* invited the King of the *Abodrites* to an entertainment which *Nicholas* intended to give to his subjects at *Roschild*.

Canute,

Canute, whose mind was above suspicion, accepted the invitation. He was received with every token of friendship and distinction. *Magnus* declared how much he had been deceived; protested that he would cause his calumniators to be punished; and pretending an approaching crusade, desired he would suffer him to commend his wife to his care, and that during his absence he would undertake the tutelage of his children.

Canute was so entirely deceived by these fair appearances, that upon receiving a letter from *Ingeburge* his wife, wherein she cautioned him against *Magnus*, he answered, That "those who had instilled fears into her mind, knew not that Prince, in whose friendship he as much confided, as in her fidelity."

When *Magnus* thought he had removed all *Canute's* apprehensions, he desired a private interview with him, pretending to have some affairs of great importance to communicate. They met accordingly in a wood; where *Magnus* concealed a party of soldiers at such a distance, so
as

as to hear the signal he intended to give them. He cloathed himself in a coat of mail, which he covered with a cloak. But *Canute* embracing him on their meeting, felt the armour, and asked the occasion of his wearing it. *Magnus* replied, That "there was a peasant near that place who had offended him, and whom he was determined to chastise."

Canute, who imagined the Prince sincere, interceded with him to forgive the poor man; representing, That "there was no crime unpardonable, if the offender repented of it: he even offered to be security for the criminal, and to repair any damages he might have received from him."

Magnus interrupted his intercession by desiring him to sit down, and then asked him, "To whom do you think the kingdom belongs?" "To your father certainly," replied *Canute*: "I know not why you ask me that question."

Magnus then laying aside his dissimulation, said, "You wish to usurp the throne, and endeavour to win the affections

“ tions of the people ; let us this day divide the kingdom.” *Canute* answered, “ It is not ours to divide, since your father is in possession of it; our duty is to wish him a long life, and a happy reign.” On which *Magnus*, raising his voice, cried out, “ It shall not be so, we must now divide the kingdom.”

These words were the signal to the assassins, who leaving their concealments, and running towards them, *Canute* cried out, “ My brother, in what have I sinned against thee? May the Lord who seeth and avengeth crimes, be judge between thee and me.” He then rose up, and prepared to defend himself, when *Magnus* stabbed him, and the rest of the assassins falling upon him, mangled his body in a merciless manner*.

This Prince, whose virtues could not procure him a peaceable reign, was canonized after his death. His Queen *Ingeburge* was delivered, a few days after his decease, of a son, whom she named *Wal-*

* Ibid. *Pontanus*.

THE HISTORY OF

demar, and who afterwards ascended the throne of *Denmark*.

The people were so much affected by the death of *Canute*, that the festival was changed into general mourning, and they gave every indication of true sorrow. This Prince had two bastard-brothers, *Harold* and *Eric*, between whom he had composed many dissensions, and had endeavoured to prevail on them to live in peace; but though they outwardly complied, they never loved each other; however, they united in an attempt to revenge the death of the King their brother.

This was *Eric*'s only motive for taking arms. He resembled his deceased brother in many of his virtues: but *Harold* was turbulent and ambitious, and carried his views much farther; for he thought the resentment of the people against the murderers of their beloved King no unlikely road to the throne. These Princes exhibited publicly *Canute*'s cloaths, pierced in various places, and covered with blood; a spectacle which animated the people with a desire of revenge; and they soon saw themselves

selfes at the head of an army, which chose *Eric* for General. Thus they became so formidable to *Nicholas*, that he was glad to appease them, by banishing *Magnus* the kingdom: which was no very severe punishment, as his kingdom of *Ostrogotbia* was the place of his exile. But even this disgrace did not continue long. *Nicholas*, when all these troubles appeared at an end, was persuaded to recal him, to which his extreme fondness rendered him sufficiently inclined.

A general insurrection followed this imprudent step. *Eric* was again chosen General, and even offered the title of King; but he refused to accept it, till he had deserved it by his services. His army declared *Nicholas* guilty of perjury; and bound themselves by an oath, never more to acknowledge him King: when *Nicholas*, by giving *Eric* all possible encouragement to hope for full satisfaction, obtained a truce, during which he fell unexpectedly on *Eric's* army, and destroyed the greatest part of them. *Eric* retired with the remainder into *Zealand*; where, filled with
indig-

indignation at the King's treachery, he desired the people to confer on him the regal title, which he had before refused; a request wherewith they gladly complied. After a variety of distresses, this Prince ascended the throne of *Denmark*, notwithstanding the treachery of his brother *Harold*; who, piqued at the preference given him, deserted his cause: but *Magnus* had been slain in battle, and *Nicholas* was murdered by the inhabitants of *Sleswick*, in revenge for the death of *Canute* their Duke*.

A. D.
1135

Pribislaus
I.
Niclotus.

Though *Canute*'s brother had got possession of the crown of *Denmark*, yet he could not obtain that of the *Abodrites*; who, on the death of *Canute*, had restored it to *Pribislaus* the First and *Niclotus*, grandsons to *Godescalc*, by his eldest son *Bucco*, who died in the year 1075. The civil war in *Denmark*, between *Nicholas* and *Eric*, encouraged them to make some inroads into that kingdom; which *Eric*, as soon as his power was established, determined to revenge. He laid waste all *Wan-*

* *Meursius*.

MECKLENBURGH.

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dalia, and obliged the inhabitants of some part of that country, where the Christian religion had given way to a new sort of Idolatry, to return to the profession of Christianity*. Experience might have taught these Princes how quickly apostacy follows a forced conversion; but the zeal of that age, which was founded on policy, rendered them indefatigable. While the greatest part of *Europe* was engaged in a crusade against the *Saracens*, the two Kings of *Denmark*, *Sweno*, the Third, and *Cannute*, (for that throne was then divided) undertook a sort of holy war against the *Vandals*. They laid siege to the port of *Dobinum*†, supposed to be *Doberin* in *Mecklenburgh*; a place famous for being the usual retreat of pirates: but the inhabitants of the isle of *Rugen* did not give them time to reduce it; for falling unexpectedly on the *Danish* fleet, which, from the enmity the Kings bore each other, was not well united, they took or burnt the greatest part of their ships; and all the *Danes* could obtain, was the resti-

A. D.

1135

A. D.

1148

* Ibid.

† *Pontanus*.

tution of such of their prisoners as were too old, or too sick, to be of any service to them; and the satisfaction of seeing some of the *Vandals* baptized, who were not thereby rendered less Idolaters; since that ceremony was the only sign they gave of Christianity.

The wandering life led originally by the *Vandals*, unconfined by houses or fixed possessions, seems, when regularity and a nearer approach to elegance prevailed, to have disposed them to continue that course by sea, which began to be laid aside on land. Thus they turned pirates; and as the maritime situation of their country greatly favoured these sea robbers, they grew so skilful in their business, that they infested the whole northern ocean, and so annoyed the *Danish* coasts, as to induce the King of *Denmark*, by way of reprisal, to give his subjects free liberty to practise piracy also, as the most effectual means of opposing the depredations of the *Vandals*. But this proved insufficient to stop their incursions; and *Sweno*, not thinking himself strong enough to reduce them so entirely

tirely as he wished, agreed to advance a certain sum of money to *Henry the Lion*, Duke of *Saxony* and *Bavaria*, for a considerable body of auxiliaries*.

A. D.
1154

The people readily paid it; but *Henry* did not perform his part. To make a joint conquest of that country suited not his views: he, therefore, eluded his promise; and *Sveno* did not venture to undertake the expedition alone.

Henry had long aimed at conquering the *Vandals*; whether out of ambition or zeal, we shall not pretend to determine; since the colour he gave to it, was the desire of establishing the Christian religion among them; which, after the death of *Canute*, had again fallen to decay: but as the Emperor *Frederick* the First had shewn some jealousy of *Henry's* power, he feared to give him just cause of offence, by increasing his dominions, which were already very extensive. Time removed this objection: for the Duke having rendered *Frederick* considerable services in his *Italian* expedition, obtained from him a

* Ibid.

Pribislaus
II.

permission to establish Bishops in all those parts of *Wandalia*, which he or his successors could reduce*. *Henry* delayed not to take advantage of the grant the Emperor had made him. He entered *Abodrite* with a powerful army, but found King *Pribislaus* the Second ready to receive him. That Prince, the son of *Niclotus* and *Amelia*, Princess of *Sweden*, had succeeded his father and his uncle *Pribislaus* the First in the year 1158; and possessed too great a portion of *Wandalian* courage to think the sword a very persuasive argument; his mind, therefore, was not inclined to acquiesce, while his forces were unsubdued. Fire and steel will operate powerfully on the apprehensions of a coward, but cannot influence the reason of a brave man. *Pribislaus* gave the Duke battle, but with such ill fortune, that great part of his army was slain. The conqueror pursued his advantage, again defeated the King, and took prisoner *Wra-*

* Intro. à l'Hist de l'Univ. par *De la Martinière*.

tiflas his brother, whom he caused to be put to death. Success still attended *Henry* in every engagement; and at length he reduced the King to accept of such terms as he thought proper to grant him: he was obliged to give up part of his kingdom, and to renounce the regal title*.

A. D.
1163

From this time the Princes of the *Abodrites* had only the title of Princes of *Mecklenburgh*; in reference to the capital city of their dominions, though it was at that time much fallen from its former splendor. But the whole country, when considered in confederacy, continued for many years to be called *Wandalia*. The town of *Mecklenburgh* had suffered so much in the late wars, that the episcopal see was translated to *Schuerin*, and the province of *Butzow* was appropriated for the support of the Bishop. To preserve him from the melancholy fate of his predecessor, and to prevent such immediate apostacy, as had hitherto followed the introduction of Christianity into that country, *Henry* established a defender of the church, under the title

H 3

of

* Ibid.

of Count of *Stbuerin*, to whom he assigned the propriety of the country, now called by that name. The Count's office was to watch over the preservation of Christianity, and the safety of the Bishops. The first that enjoyed this dignity was *Guncelin*, whose descendants continued many centuries in that province.

The *Saxons* could not fail of being favourably received in *Mecklenburgh*, under the protection of their Prince; who considered that the conversion of a people was more easily effected by softening their manners, than by victory; since thus their minds and wills might be conquered; whereas the sword could only enslave their bodies. With this view, *Henry* encouraged many of the *Saxons* to settle in *Mecklenburgh* and the adjacent parts; where, mixing with the natives, they wrought, in a moderate compass of time, a considerable change in their language and manners. The country soon abounded in Priests and Monks: schools were instituted*; the

* Ibid.

people were humanized by religious instructions and the introduction of letters.

Pribislaus became a sincere convert to Christianity; and by his example and care, much advanced the conversion of his people. He had many fatal examples in his own family, of the dangers attending such Princes as venture to rebel against those conquerors; whom, before their forces were weakened by ravages and oppression, they were not able to resist. His predecessors had unhappily experienced the imprudence of this step; therefore, warned by their fate, instead of watching for an opportunity to shake off the *Saxon* yoke, when no probability remained of recovering his dignity, he chose rather to exert, in conjunction with his conqueror, that courage, of which he had given evident proof in his obstinate defence of his country when invaded by *Henry*.

The Duke, pleased with his conduct, treated him rather as his convert, than his vassal, and the most perfect amity subsisted between them. *Sveno* King of *Denmark* gave him an opportunity of exercis-

A. D.

1154

ing the Prince of *Mecklenburgh* in a martial expedition: for being driven out of his kingdom by more worthy competitors, he came to *Henry* and solicited succours to re-instate him on the throne*. The Duke granted his request, and ordered the *Vandals* to attack *Denmark*, with the largest fleet they could furnish, while he invaded *Jutland* with his land forces. The *Vandals* obeyed; but *Waldemar*, one of the *Danish* Kings, opposed *Henry* with so considerable an army that he thought proper to retire.

Sveno persuaded the Duke the next year to grant him the same assistance from the *Vandalian* fleet, which now served him so effectually, that *Canute*, and *Waldemar*, the reigning Kings in *Denmark*, thought proper to share the kingdom with him, which for that purpose was divided into three parts†.

A. D. A few years after, when *Waldemar*, by
1154 the death of his two companions on the throne, became sole King of *Denmark*, the Prince of *Mecklenburgh* received little benefit from the Duke of *Saxony's* protection. Though an alliance subsisted

* *Pontanus*.

† *Ibid. Meursius*.

between

between him and the King of *Denmark*, that Monarch attacked the state of *Mecklenburgh*; on which *Henry* came to an open rupture with him; but *Waldemar*, by prevailing on some other of the *Wandalian* Princes, who were subjects to *Henry*, to revolt, obliged him to consent to an accommodation, wherein it was agreed, that they should, with their joint forces, subdue such of the *Vandal* states, as had either not yet been conquered, or had shaken off their subjection. By this means *Henry* made considerable additions to his conquests in that country; but at length the *Vandals* purchased a peace, by paying a considerable sum of money to both Princes.

A. D.

1161

After this *Pribislaus* accompanied the Duke of *Saxony* in an expedition to the *Holy Land**: carrying those arms against the Infidels, which, employed at home, might have wrought his own destruction; and having lived to a considerable age, died at a tournament at *Luneburgh*, of a hurt he received by a fall from his horse; the

* Intro. à l'Hist de l'Univ. par *De la Martinière*.

weight of his armour having bruised him beyond recovery.

Pribislaus had married for his first wife, *Petronella* daughter of *Canute*, King of the *Wendes*. After her death he married *Voisboda*, daughter of *Burewinus*, King of *Norway*; and *Matilda* daughter to *Boleslaus Crispus* Duke of *Poland* was his third wife. He left two sons, *Canute*, who died without issue, and *Henry Burewin* the First.

A. D.

1178

Canute.

Pribislaus was succeeded by his eldest son *Canute*, who, though he enjoyed his dignity but five years, was peculiarly fortunate in leaving his country free, to his brother and successor. The pride and ambition of *Henry* Duke of *Saxony* raised him many enemies, for the Emperor, and most of the Princes of the empire, being jealous of his growing power, united against him, and he was put under the ban of the empire; on which he was at length obliged to seek refuge in the court of his father-in-law, *Henry* the Second, King of *England*. Most of his territories were then seized by different pretenders, and

and *Mecklenburgh* recovered its liberty. But though that country shook off the *Saxon* yoke, it soon fell a prey to the *Danes*. *Jarimar*, Prince of *Rugen*, who had for some years been subject to *Denmark*, served that King in his war with *Bogislaus*, Prince of *Pomerania*: who was assisted by the Princes of the greatest part of *Wandalia*, and among the rest by the *Mecklenburghers*. *Jarimar*, in a skirmish, took *Henry I. Burewin* their Prince; and delivered him into the hands of *Canute* King of *Denmark*.

This was no unacceptable present to that Monarch, who now hoped with ease to secure to himself the sovereignty of that state; and by dividing it, to render it still less able to withdraw from his subjection. *Nicholas*, son to *Wratislas*, and brother to *Pribislaus* the last King of the *Abodrites*, had contested the succession to the principality of *Mecklenburgh*; *Canute* took advantage of this dispute, and by his management, *Henry Burewin*, from a desire of liberty, and *Nicholas* from apprehensions lest *Henry*, on being released from his prison, should ex-
clude

Nicholas.

A. D.

1188

clude him the succession, were easily prevailed upon to make him arbitrator between them. On which *Canute* decreed to *Nicholas* the town of *Roslock*, with the territory of the *Kissins*; and to *Henry* the cities of *Mecklenburgh* and *Hovia*, with all their dependences; on condition, that each of these Princes should acknowledge he held his principality as a fief of *Denmark**. As the *Vandals* had not, by continual subjection, yet lost the love of liberty, it was judged requisite to secure their obedience by hostages; twenty-four were delivered, and among them the son of *Henry Burewin*. The *Danes* found their right to the title of King of the *Vandals* upon this treaty, together with the Emperor *Lotharius*'s gift of the kingdom of *Abodrite* to *Canute*, the father of *Waldemar* the First†.

Canute, though he had reduced almost all *Wandalia*, found it still so difficult to retain the inhabitants in the profession of Christianity, that he gave some lands in the eastern part of that country to the Knights of the *Teutonic* order, on condi-

* *Meursius.*† *Ibid.*

MECKLENBURGH.

109

tion that they should watch over its preservation ; and these Knights were the founders of the state of *Prussia*.

Adolphus Count of *Deffau* having joined the Earl of *Holfstein*, and Marquis of *Brandenburgh*, in their war with *Canute*, that King commissioned the two Princes of *Mecklenburgh* to oppose him with all their forces. They performed their task successfully, though it proved fatal to *Nicholas*, who was slain in the battle: but *Henry*, rather exasperated than dejected by the death of his cousin, gained a complete victory, and seized the greatest part of the Count's territories.

A. D.
1199

The Count fortified himself in *Hamburg*; but at length was reduced to submit; and by an imprudent treaty remained prisoner in *Denmark*, till the Prince of *Mecklenburgh*, the Count of *Schuerin*, and some others, prevailed on *Waldemar* the Second, who had then ascended the *Danish* throne, to set him at liberty*.

Henry of *Mecklenburgh*, and *Guncelin* Count of *Schuerin*, gave *Waldemar* some

* Ibid.

trouble:

trouble: they were not easy under their vassalage, and acted with such a spirit of independance, that he found it necessary to make some inroads into their country, in order to humble them*. With this view, to fix his power on a still stronger basis, he obtained of the Emperor *Frederick* the Second letters patent, confirming to him the sovereignty of all those parts of *Wandalia* conquered by himself and his predecessors; with a clause forbidding any future Emperor, or Prince of the Empire, to attempt to molest him in the possession of that territory; on account that any part of it formerly belonged to them, or on any other pretence whatsoever.

Henry Prince of *Mecklenburgh* was more laudably employed, than in contesting a sovereignty which *Waldemar* was with such care establishing, and which he could not hope to oppose with success. After spending thirty-six years in unwearied endeavours to settle the government on a regular and uniform plan, and to reform the abuses crept into his dominions during

* *Pontanus.*

MECKLENBURGH.

III

the long wars with which it had been afflicted in his father's reign, he resigned the administration into the hands of his two sons.* After which he lived eight years in privacy and retirement; enjoying in calm tranquillity, the pleasing consciousness of having performed all the duties of his station, and of providing with indefatigable care for the public welfare.

A. D.
1219

The Prince had two wives, *Maud* the daughter of *William*, Prince of *Brunswic*; and *Adelbéid*, daughter to *Lescus Albus*, King of *Poland*: by the latter he had no issue; by the former he had two sons, *Henry* and *Nicholas*; and one daughter, who was married to the Count of *Oldenburg*.

The two Princes divided their father's dominions between them. *Henry* his eldest son resided at *Gustrow*; *Nicholas* the younger at *Mecklenburgh*. During their administration, *Henry*, Count of *Schuerin*, their ally, or rather their partner in that principality, gave a strong proof, that no

Henry
and
Nicholas.

* *De la Martiniere. Anderson's Genealogical Tables.*

power

power can protect the unjust from the revenge of his inferiors.

The Count engaging in an expedition to the *Holy Land*, before his departure, recommended his wife, and his dominions, to the protection of the King of *Denmark*. The King, it is said, violated this trust in the most criminal manner*; having seduced the Countess from the fidelity she owed her husband. Atrocious crimes are never long concealed. The Count, soon after his return, was informed of what had passed in his absence; but as he thought complaints and reproaches were inadequate to the injury, he dissembled his resentment, and pretended ignorance of the offence, till time should furnish him with an opportunity of taking a severe revenge. *Waldemar*, by going into the isle of *Lutib* to pursue the pleasures of hunting, furnished the Count with the opportunity for which he waited. He repaired to the King, and for some days partook of the diversion: but one evening at their return from the chase, in-

A. D.
1223

* *Mourfius.*

ited his Majesty into his tent, on pretence of taking some refreshment after his fatigue, before he proceeded farther. The King accepted the invitation, and was accompanied by his eldest son.

Waldemar, wearied with the labours of the day, fell asleep; whereupon, the Count caused him and his son to be conveyed on board a ship, which, by his order, rode at anchor at a very small distance for that purpose; and setting sail for *Schuerin*, he confined him in the fort of *Danneburg*, or as others affirm, in the castle of *Schuerin*.

As soon as an account of the King's imprisonment reached *Denmark*, his subjects began to deliberate on the means of delivering him. It is natural to imagine, that this might have been effected by force of arms, had they been speedy in their proceedings; as the Count of *Schuerin* would have found it difficult, before they had given him leisure to strengthen himself with the alliances of the neighbouring Princes, to resist a state so much more powerful than his own; but the *Danes*

seem to have been peaceably disposed; and instead of levying an army, had recourse to negociations. They sent Ambassadors to the Emperor *Frederick*, requesting him to try, if by his authority he could prevail on the Count to set their King at liberty; and lest the Count's fears for his temporal possessions might not prove availing, they were willing, if possible, to take advantage of his care for his spiritual concerns, and applied to the Pope to direct his arms against *Henry's* conscience.

Waldemar was, however, assisted by neither of these powers; the Emperor offered to use his utmost efforts in the King's favour, on condition that he would hold the kingdom of *Denmark* as a fief of the empire, and yield *Wandalia* and *Nordalbingia* to the Count of *Schuerin*. The Pope declared he was willing to interest himself in the King's cause, upon proviso, that *Denmark* should be acknowledged dependant and tributary to the Holy See.

Waldemar did not chuse to accept of his liberty on such terms; he rejected alike
the

the proposals of his temporal and spiritual ally, and thought it more eligible to be the captive of his enemy, than the slave of a false friend. When the Count found he could not procure by treaty the advantages he wished, he took the most probable measures for obtaining them by more forcible means. He invited *Adolphus* Count of *Schawenburg*, from whom the King of *Denmark* had taken *Holstein*, *Henry Burewin* of *Mecklenburgh*, the Archbishop of *Bremen*, and some other Princes, to join with him in recovering the states and rights of which the *Danes* had deprived them. An association was soon formed; and the confederates defeated the *Danish* army; after which a continued series of success attended them. *Holstein*, and the rest of the country on the northern side of the *Elbe*, and the city of *Hamburgh*, submitted without resistance. The greatest part of *Wandalia* renounced all obedience to the *Danes*, and the neighbouring Princes recovered their former possessions: they dismissed the Prefects and Governors who had sworn allegiance

to the King of *Denmark*; and having put in their places persons on whom they could rely, disbanded their troops, and remained in the quiet enjoyment of their conquests.

All this time the *Danes* employed themselves in fruitlessly soliciting the Pope and Emperor to procure their King his liberty. His Holiness, indeed, made many remonstrances to the Count of *Schuerin*; he admonished, reprehended, and even threatened him: but the Count was inflexible, and did not believe the Pope sufficiently sincere, to be greatly awed by his menaces.

These faint proceedings continued for three years; when the *Danes* became convinced, that to render the Princes of the empire warm in *Waldemar's* defence, it was necessary to make it their private interest to be so. Accordingly, they dispersed considerable sums of money among them, and made still larger promises. By this means they brought the Duke of *Saxony*, and some other Princes, to be very zealous in their mediation; whereby they procured the King his liberty, on paying a very con-

considerable ransom; his Majesty engaging by oath, never to attempt to revenge himself on the authors of his captivity, nor to endeavour to reduce to their former subjection either *Holftein*, *Schuerin*, *Hamburg*, or any of the other countries on the northern side of the *Elbe*. They likewise obliged him and his son to renounce, in the name of *Nicholas* his grandson, son to the Earl of *Holland*, who had married *Ida*, daughter to the Count of *Schuerin*, all pretensions to the third part of *Schuerin*, in right of his mother, to whom it was assigned in dower. The King then gave two of his sons, and some young noblemen as hostages till the full payment of his ransom*.

The Princes were not long detained; for the *Danes* soon raised the stipulated sum. *Waldemar* then indemnified his grandson for the loss of his share of the county of *Schuerin*, by assigning to him the northern part of the province of *Holland*. About this time died *Henry Burwin* the Second, Prince of *Mecklenburgh*;

* Ibid.

when that principality began to want a defender; for *Waldemar* having prevailed with the Pope to give him a dispensation from the oaths which he had taken to procure his liberty, he led an army into *Wandalia*, in order to recover what he had lost during his captivity*.

A. D.

1227

Such a proceeding alarmed all the Princes who had newly recovered their dominions and freedom, and united them against him. They joined their forces, and gave him battle near the town of *Borhoved*. Never was fight more obstinate: *Waldemar* rode from rank to rank, exposing his person to a degree of rashness, while he at the same time exerted all the offices of a General. He received a wound in one eye, which entirely deprived him of it; and being thrown from his horse, was near falling into the hands of his enemies, if one of his soldiers had not forced his way to him, and conducted him off the field of battle.

The *Danes*, not discouraged by their King's absence, continued the fight with

* Ibid.

unabated valour; till the sun, in the course of the day, shining full in their faces, dazzled and confounded them; when the defection of some of their troops threw them into a consternation, that ended in a general flight, and left the confederate Princes a dear-bought victory.

The following year the Princes prevailed with the Duke of *Saxony* to join them, who likewise recovered what the *Danes* had taken from him; and *Waldemar* found himself so unequal to his various enemies, that he made few attempts from this time to recover *Wandalia* and the adjacent states; but entirely employed himself in taking care of the interior part of his kingdom.

Henry Burewin the First, whom, as we have already said, had retired from all the labours of government, and *Henry*, Count of *Schuerin*, died nearly at this time. To the latter succeeded his brother *Gunzelin*. *Nicholas*, younger son to *Henry Burewin*, survived his father but a year, for having on some occasion taken up his abode at a very old house at *Gade-*

A. D.
1228

bushe, it fell down, and crushed him in its ruins*.

Henry Burewin the Second had left four sons, who inherited the states both of their father and of their uncle; for the latter dying without issue, the principality was divided among the four brothers.

John, the eldest succeeded to the prin-
Nicholas, cipality of *Mecklenburgh*; *Nicholas* had
Henry, the country of the *Heruli*; *Henry Bure-*
Pribislaus. *win* the third was Prince of *Roslock*; and
Wandalia-Propre fell to the share of *Pri-*
bislaus, *Henry's* fourth son.

Soon after *Eric* the Sixth ascending the throne of *Denmark*, a peace was concluded between him, the Count of *Schuerin*, and the Princes of *Mecklenburgh*, wherein they acknowledged that Monarch their Sovereign. To establish a peace so acceptable to all parties, *Eric* gave his sister *Margaret* in marriage to *Henry Burewin*†.

A. D.
1242

This treaty was fulfilled with the greatest fidelity, and the most constant amity subsisted between these two Princes. Those

* *Martiniere. And. Geneal. T.* † *Meursius.*
of

of *Mecklenburgh* had a fair opportunity of evincing their attachment to *Eric* during the long war he had to sustain against his three brothers, wherein they served him very effectually, assisting him with all their forces.

Henry Bureauin the Third was likewise attached to *Christopher* the First, brother to *Eric*, after he was seated on the *Danish* throne, and proved a very useful ally*. But while he was engaged in martial affairs, his brother *John*, from whom the *Mecklenburgh* family is immediately descended, was otherwise employed. He had studied Theology in the university at *Paris*. The degree of Doctor had been conferred on him there, in acknowledgement of his great excellence in that science; on which account he received the surname of *The Divine*. His divinity was not merely theoretical; he was distinguished for his great piety and indefatigable endeavours to extirpate the remains of Paganism, which still subsisted in his kingdom. He cleared the country of a race of banditti,

* Ibid.

who

who had long rendered themselves formidable, by committing great enormities*. Besides he, with *Henry Burewin*, and the Count of *Schuerin*, mediated a peace between *Eric* the Sixth, King of *Denmark*, and *Abel* Duke of *Sleswick*, his brother; wherein the latter engaged to preserve an inviolable fidelity to *Eric* his King, and the other restored him to his liberty, and his territories. But the mediators were not, in this case, happy; since they had the misfortune to see that Monarch fall a sacrifice to the treacherous Duke, on whom the reconciliation had no other effect, than to change open war, into more base assassination†.

A. D.

1250

John was engaged in some wars with the *Livonians*, wherein he was so successful as to put an end for a time to their incursions: but the proper attention he gave to the affairs of government, could not remove the prejudice his people conceived against him, on account of his learning and great attachment to literature. This turn of mind rendered him contemptible

* *De la Martiniere.*† *Meursius.*

in that age of ignorance, and made his death, which happened in the year 1260, little regretted*.

By *Luitgardia*, his wife, he had six sons, *Henry*, *Nicholas*, *Poppo*, *Herman*, *John* and *Albert*. *Henry* succeeded him in his principality, *Nicholas* was a Canon of *Lubeck*, *Poppo* a Knight of the Cross in *Prussia*, and died before his father, and *Herman* a Canon of *Schuerin*.

Henry the Fourth, commonly called *Henry of Jerusalem*, inherited his father's piety, though the fruits of it were not so useful to his kingdom, nor so happy for himself; since it led him into the great error of that age, the crusadoes. A religious Prince, by that general infatuation, became the scourge of his kingdom; and while he aimed at destroying the infidels, he frequently ruined his own subjects. *Henry* engaged in the famous expedition undertaken by *Lewis* the Ninth, King of *France*, in order to recover the *Holy Land* out of the hands of the *Saracens*.

A. D.
1264
Henry of Jerusalem.

* Ibid. *Anderson's Gen'al.*

The plague, which broke out in the *French* army, and destroyed the greatest part of it, obliged *Lewis* to return into *France*. But *Henry's* mistaken piety prevented his following so salutary an example: he could not think of returning into his country without having paid his devotions at the holy sepulchre; he therefore took leave of *Lewis*, and set out on his purposed voyage to *Jerusalem*. But before he reached that city, he was taken prisoner, and sent to *Damas*, from whence he was conveyed to *Grand Cairo*, and presented to *Melek Sait*, Sultan of *Egypt*, who threw him into prison.

A. D.
1274

In this wretched confinement *Henry* continued twenty-six years; and would have been exposed to the greatest extremities, had he not been generously assisted by one of his domestics, who was taken prisoner at the same time.

This faithful servant had, in his youth, been taught to work in the silk manufactures, and by employing a knowledge so fortunately acquired, gained enough by his labour to support himself, and to provide

vide his master with every convenience and comfort, that could serve to alleviate his distress.

After many revolutions at *Grand Cairo*, which had frequently inspired *Henry* with hope, and as constantly disappointed him, the Sultan died, and was succeeded by *Araraphus*, a *German* renagado; who, in the time that he professed Christianity, had served in the *Livonian* wars under *John the Divine*, and remembered to have seen the Prince of *Mecklenburgh* in that country. This recollection proved very fortunate for *Henry*. The Sultan, affected with the vicissitudes of fortune which his prisoner had experienced, and having retained some of the virtues of the religion he had abjured, set him at liberty without ransom*.

Henry, filled with a grateful sense of the Sultan's generosity, set out directly on his return to his dominions; but he had not proceeded far on his journey, when he was again taken by the *Saracens*, and once

* Ibid. *Martiniere*. *Knowles's History of the Turks*.

more sent to *Grand Cairo*. This new seizure alarmed him; he feared the Sultan had repented his generosity; and with great anxiety reflected, that little confidence could be placed in a man who had forsaken his God: however, his apprehensions were groundless, the Sultan not only

A. D.
1300

restored him again to his liberty, but provided him with every thing necessary to secure him a safe conveyance to his country; which, during his absence, was governed by one of his brothers.

Henry, on his arrival in *Mecklenburgh*, was received by his subjects with the greatest demonstrations of joy: his long absence, and still more, his misfortunes, which sprung from a motive they respected, having encreased the affection his merit first excited.

In the year 1301 *Henry* attacked the town of *Wismar*, and reduced it. This was his last martial enterprize, for he died the following year, leaving an encreased dominion, not procured by conquests, but occasioned by the imprudence of *Pribislaus*, son to *Pribislaus*, the youngest

youngest son of *Henry* the Second, who entered into an unfortunate quarrel with *Rodolphus*, Bishop of *Schuerin*. The Pre-late having erected a castle in the city of *Butzow*, a town within *Pribislaus's* jurisdiction, that Prince, offended at an action which he thought an infringement on his prerogative, and a dangerous president in a subject, caused it to be destroyed. *Rodolphus* immediately raised a body of troops, with which he defeated *Pribislaus*, and took him prisoner; nor would he release him without a very great ransom. To procure a sum which he was not able to raise, the unhappy Prince was reduced to sell his dominions to the Princes of *Mecklenburgh* his cousins; and thus purchased his liberty at the expence of his sovereignty*.

Henry left by his wife *Anastasia*, daughter to a Prince of *Pomerania*, two sons, and two daughters; *Henry*, to whom, on account of his courage, was given the surname of *The Lion*, and *John*; *Anne*, wife to *John* Count of *Holstein*, and *Luitgar-*

* *Martiniere.*

dia, who married *Primislaus* the Second, King of *Poland*, by whom she was strangled.

*Henry
the Lion.*

Henry the Lion made considerable additions to his principality; as much from the esteem conceived of him, as by his valour. *Nicholas* of *Mecklenburgh*, son and successor of *Henry Burewin*, Prince of *Rostock* and *Werke*, had engaged himself by promise to marry the sister of *Otho* and *Conrad*, Margraves of *Brandenburgh*; but finding that Princess did not answer his expectation, and perhaps having attached himself to some lady whom he thought more agreeable, he refused to compleat the marriage. Upon this, the Margraves, who were highly offended, publicly declared their resolution to revenge the affront done to their sister, and made the necessary preparations for attacking *Nicholas*. This Prince, who had lived at continual variance with his subjects, was sensible that he had not power to resist an invader, and therefore thought it most advisable to save something out of the destruction with which he was threatened.

ened. He accordingly sold the town of *Rostock* to the King of *Denmark*, for a certain sum of ready money, and some lands, which that Prince made over to him; where he might safely live under the protection of that crown, to which they belonged.

The Margraves would not offend, nor contest with so powerful a Prince as the King of *Denmark*, but offered to submit their quarrel with *Nicholas* to the arbitration of his Majesty, and *Henry* of *Mecklenburgh*. These Princes settled the points in dispute to the satisfaction of both parties; and the Margraves engaged, that if any other occasions of quarrel arose, instead of endeavouring to decide it by arms, they would refer it to the same arbitrators.

The inhabitants of *Rostock* did not acquiesce in the transfer *Nicholas* had made of that city; but *Eric* reduced them to submit; and then gave the government of the town, together with the country, to *Henry* of *Mecklenburgh*; but first obliged him to deliver an acknowledgement in

A. D.
1302

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writing

writing, that he would never pretend to any property therein; in which he also engaged both in his own name, and that of his successors, that it should be resigned to the King of *Denmark*, whenever he required it, and left to his future disposal *.

Notwithstanding the proofs given by the Margraves of *Brandenburgh*, of their esteem for *Henry* in chusing him arbitrator in their quarrel, with so near a relation of his as *Nicholas*; yet *Henry* was soon after engaged in a war with the Margrave *John*, on account of some lands, which he claimed as due to *Beatrix* his wife, daughter to the deceased *Albert*, Margrave of *Brandenburgh*, and gaining a compleat victory, he obliged *John* to resign to him the province of *Stargard*, as a compensation for his wife's dowry, and the ransom of the prisoners he had taken†.

The Margrave of *Brandenburgh* could not patiently acquiesce in so disadvantageous a treaty; he used frequent endea-

* *Meursius.*

† *Martiniere.*

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vours to recover the possession of *Star-gard*, but was unsuccessful in all his attempts; for *Henry* could neither be intimidated by force, nor influenced by negotiations.

A. D.

1307

In the year 1307 *Henry* was involved in a short war with the King of *Denmark*, and the regency of *Lubec*, in support of *Gerhard* Count of *Holstein*; for the nobility of *Holstein*, being discontented with the Count's government, took arms, and gave him battle; but received a total overthrow; and *Pelos* their Commander being taken prisoner, was convicted of treason, and broken upon the wheel. After this defeat, the nobles, unable to keep the field, fled to *Lubec*. The Count, offended at the favourable reception given them by the regency of that city, determined to make them experience his resentment in the point wherein he thought them most sensible. He therefore built a fort at the mouth of the *Traive*, at once to interrupt their commerce, and to prevent their receiving supplies by sea.

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THE HISTORY OF

The regency too strongly felt the inconveniences of this proceeding, to submit quietly to its continuance. They entered into a league with the Duke of *Saxony*, and applied to *Eric* King of *Denmark* for assistance. As *Lubec* was under the protection of that crown, and in some measure dependant on it, *Eric* complied with their request, and sent them some troops under the command of the Duke of *Sleswick*.

When the Count of *Holstein* learnt with what formidable alliances the regency were strengthened, he thought it advisable to apply to *Henry* of *Mecklenburgh*, and some other Princes with whom he was allied, for such reinforcements as might render him equal to his enemy. With these auxiliaries he for some time incommoded the inhabitants of *Lubec*; and at length reduced them to consent to a peace*, whereby the fort was to be left in the Count's possession for four years, and at the expiration of that term, the

* *Meursius*.

Emperor *Albert* was appointed umpire to decide whose property it should become.

The disagreements between the Count of *Holstein* and his subjects were likewise accommodated, and it was mutually agreed that if any future discontent arose, the matter in dispute should be referred to the decision of the King of *Denmark*, and the Prince of *Mecklenburgh*.

A. D.
1308

From this time a sincere friendship subsisted between these two Princes. With joint forces they endeavoured to replace on the throne of *Sweden*, *Birger*, the King of *Denmark*'s brother-in-law; and though their arms were not at that time successful, yet soon after they procured, by their mediation, a reconciliation between that King and his brother, and an equal division of the kingdom between them*.

The next year the King of *Denmark*, who endeavoured to cultivate the friendship of the northern *German* Princes, invited them to a tournament at *Rosstock*. But the inhabitants of that city, jealous of their liberty, and fearing the presence of so

* Ibid.

great a number of Potentates, refused to admit the Princes within their walls, which obliged them to remain in tents, in an adjacent plain, called the *Garden of Roses*. This action greatly offended the King; but to avoid giving any interruption to the entertainment, he concealed his resentment till he returned to *Denmark*; when equipping a powerful fleet, he attacked the city with the assistance of the Prince of *Mecklenburgh*, and the rest of his allies.*

A. D.
1311

The strength of the walls making the King apprehend that the siege would become tedious, he erected at each side of the mouth of the river, a strong fortress, and sinking some ships filled with stones, stopped up its communication with the sea; when believing he had sufficiently revenged the affront he had received, he returned to his own kingdom.

The citizens of *Rosstock* no sooner saw that their enemies were departed, than attacking the two forts, they took them by storm, notwithstanding the vigorous

* Ibid.

defence made by the garrison. They afterwards cleared the river; and the first use they made of opening the communication with the sea, was to make an irruption into *Denmark*, and ravage the coasts.

This greatly incensed the King; who, assisted by his allies, again laid siege to the city; he himself commanding the fleet, while the Prince of *Mecklenburgh* had the direction of the land forces: but being soon obliged to return to *Denmark*, he in his absence appointed *Henry of Mecklenburgh* his Lieutenant in that country. The town was now so closely blocked up, that no succours could gain admittance; by which means the citizens began to be in want of provisions. The half-famished populace soon became mutinous, and accused their magistrates of bringing them into that distressed situation: with their hunger, their rage increased; they proceeded from menaces to action, and murdered the greatest part of their magistrates, some few only finding means to fly to the Prince of *Mecklenburgh* for protection.

The citizens now offered to surrender their city, and requested a pardon; but they so much apprehended a severe punishment, that they would not suffer the Prince to enter the town in arms. When not judging it prudent to trust himself and soldiers in a defenceless state, among a people driven to despair, he sent in by night some waggons laden with provisions, which were too welcome not to be readily received; and when the gates were opened to admit them, the Prince, with a body of troops, forced the guard, and entered the place. He immediately ranged these troops in order of battle: a general alarm ensued: the citizens ran to arms, and universal terror and consternation were spread through the city. *Henry*, to calm their fears, declared, That he was come thither with no other view than to render justice to every one; not by force of arms, but by the laws of right and equity, and desired them only to accept peace and safety at his hands.

These assurances appeased the tumult: the Prince then assembled the principal citizens,

citizens, and condemned them to no other punishment than the paying of a large fine. The King of *Denmark* rewarded *Henry's* services, by giving him the city and its dependancies, to hold in fee of the crown of *Denmark*; he having before enjoyed the government of them; and the city was left in possession of all its privileges*.

A. D.

1312

Christopher, King of *Denmark*, who succeeded *Eric* the Eighth, was driven out of his kingdom by his rebellious subjects, and reduced to fly to the *Wandalian* Princes for refuge and assistance†; and he did not apply in vain, for they all contributed to furnish him with a tolerable fleet, and some land forces; and *Henry* of *Mecklenburgh* accompanied him in his expedition. They took *Wardingburgh*, which was reputed the strongest fortress in *Denmark*; but they were soon besieged therein by the Duke of *Holstein*, at the head of the malecontents. The attack and the defence were equally vigorous; but at length famine came to the assistance of

A. D.

1326

* Ibid.

† Ibid.

the

the besiegers; and the garrison was reduced to great extremity: upon which, *Henry of Mecklenburgh* offered to deliver up the place, on condition, that the King and himself should have the liberty of retiring with all their ships and foldiers. Their resistance had been so obstinate, that the besiegers, who knew not the greatness of their distress, consented to the capitulation.

Christopher retired into the isle of *Falster*, but the malecontents pursued him thither; and the best terms he could then obtain, was leave to retire to *Rostock*; where he lived some time in great obscurity. He is said to have then made over to the Duke of *Mecklenburgh* not only that city, but *Gnoi*, *Schuan*, and their dependancies, to indemnify him for the expences he had been at in his defence. This territory is now the duchy of *Strelitz*, so called, because the Duke of *Mecklenburgh*, of the second branch, who possesses it, has fixed his residence at *Strelitz*.

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The last year of *Henry's* life was distinguished by the assistance which he, with some other of the *Wandalian* Princes, again gave to *Christopher*, whereby he recovered some part of his kingdom *.

Henry had by *Beatrix*, his first wife, daughter to *Albert*, Margrave of *Brandenburgh*, only one daughter, named *Maud*, who married *Otho*, Duke of *Luneburgh*. By his second wife *Ann*, sister of *Radolphus*, Elector of *Saxony*, he left two sons, *Albert* and *John*, and two daughters; *Ann*, married to *Henry Ironside*, Earl of *Holstein*; and *Agnes*, married to *Nicholas*, Prince of the *Wendi*, of the house of *Mecklenburgh* †.

Albert succeeded *Henry* in his principality; while *John* had the lordship of *Star-gard*, which was bequeathed to him by his father.

Lewis, surnamed *The Roman*, Elector of *Brandenburgh*, hoped to make a more successful attempt for the recovery of *Star-gard*, when his too prosperous enemy had

A. D.
1329
Albert I.
John.

* Ibid.

† *Anderfon's* Geneal.

left

left his dominions to a less experienced successor; but he found himself disappointed in this expectation. The courage of the two Princes, *Albert* and *John*, and the affectionate union which subsisted between them, rendered their joint forces irresistible. *Lewis* was at length obliged to renounce, for himself and successors, all pretensions to *Stargard*, on condition that he should have for wife *Ingleburga*, daughter to *Albert*; to whom her father promised to give in dower, *Lentzen*, a town situated on the *Elbe*: and to release without ransom, four hundred prisoners, which he had taken in his wars with *Lewis* *.

Nicholas, Prince of *Werle*, whom we have mentioned before, on occasion of his selling *Rostock* to the King of *Denmark*, being attacked by the Dukes of *Pomerania*, and not provided with forces sufficient to defend himself, now applied to *Albert* for succour; who went in person to his assistance, and recovered by assault the town of *Grim*, which the Dukes of *Po-*

* *De la Martiniere.*

merania had taken from *Nicholas*, and re-established him in full possession of his estates.

Albert then employed his troops in destroying some castles in the counties of *Wittemburgh*, and *Ratzeburgh*; which served for places of retreat and refuge to formidable parties of robbers. These banditti applied to *Eric*; Duke of *Saxe-Lawenburg*, for his protection; which, in expectation of receiving some future services from them, he readily granted, but it proved of little use to them. *Albert* shewed no more regard to their protector, than to themselves; he demolished all their castles, and made *Eric* suffer so much, for imprudently supporting so infamous a set of people, that he was reduced to beg for peace in a very humble manner.

Upon the death of the Emperor *Lewis*, *Charles* the Fourth, though elected to the Imperial throne, found his dignity contested by many competitors. In the wars, which were the consequence of these divisions, the two Princes, *Albert* of *Mecklenburgh*, and *John* of *Stargard*, by their uncom-

A. D.
1349

uncommon bravery, performed such eminent services to *Charles*, that in gratitude for the assistance they had given him, he, in the year 1349, made them Dukes of the empire.

Soon after this period they again engaged in a war with *Lewis*, Marquis of *Brandenburgh*. This Prince had succeeded *Waldemar* the Second, who had been dead about twenty-five years; but *Muller Meichen*, formerly his Equerry, assuming his name, declared that he been on a pilgrimage to *Jerusalem*, and after various distresses, was now returned to claim his dominions, usurped by *Lewis**.

This impostor bore some natural resemblance to the Margrave, and the post he had enjoyed affording opportunities of observing him, he had acquired many of his peculiarities, which contributed to impose on the common people. The Dukes of *Saxony* and *Mecklenburgh*, and the Prince of *Anbalt*, who were at enmity with *Lewis*, took advantage of this op-

* Ibid. Mem. of the house of *Brandenburgh*.

portunity,

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portunity, and supported the cause of the impostor.

Waldemar King of *Denmark*, brother-in-law, and friend to *Lewis*, lost no time in going to his assistance. He equipped a strong fleet, and made a descent on the territory of the Duke of *Mecklenburgh*, which he ravaged in a very merciless manner. From thence he carried the same destruction into *Pomerania*, and took by storm the town of *Stargard**.

A. D.
1349

The Duke of *Mecklenburgh*, in order to repel so formidable an invader, assembled all his troops, and invested *Stargard*. The King's forces were not sufficient to give him battle, and he found himself too closely besieged to escape out of the town, which was so ill fortified, that it could not long resist the vigorous attacks of the enemy. In this distress the King was seasonably relieved by the Margrave's brother, who hastened to his assistance with what troops he could raise.

The Duke of *Mecklenburgh* did not wait to be attacked; he raised the siege,

A. D.
1349

* *Meursius*.

and

and marched against the Prince of *Brandenburgh*, whom he defeated; and killed or took prisoners the greatest part of his army; it was even with extreme difficulty the Prince himself escaped falling into his hands*.

Though the Prince of *Brandenburgh's* army was destroyed, yet he effected his purpose; for as soon as the Duke of *Mecklenburgh* raised the siege of *Stargard*, the King of *Denmark* evacuated the place; and marching into *Mecklenburgh*, again made it feel the cruel effects of his enmity. He pillaged several cities, and being strengthened by some auxiliaries, laid siege to the city of *Berlin*, which had likewise engaged in the impostor's cause.

The Dukes of *Mecklenburgh* pursued the King, who at their approach raised the siege of *Berlin*, and offered them battle. The Dukes ranged their troops, in order to accept it, and each side was ready to engage, when some of the principal nobles in both armies proposed, that to avoid the effusion of more blood, some

* Ibid.

means of accommodation should be fought. This was agreed to by each party, and the King of *Sweden* was appointed umpire.

The King of *Sweden's* arbitration was successful, and peace was concluded; on condition, that the Margrave of *Brandenburg* should ransom the prisoners taken by the Dukes of *Mecklenburgh*; release from their oath of allegiance some towns which had formerly been contained in *Wandalia*, and espouse *Ingeburga*, daughter to *Albert*, Duke of *Mecklenburgh*. The rest of the allies on each side were also included in the peace*.

The King of *Denmark*, desirous of preserving the friendship of the *German* Princes, and also of promoting a general harmony, invited them to a tournament, which he designed to exhibit at *Lubec*. He there, in the midst of mirth and festivity, reconciled some little differences which still subsisted between them; and the preliminaries of a marriage were settled between *Henry*, son to *Albert* of *Mecklenburgh*, and

A. D.

1350

* Ibid.

Ingeborga, daughter to the King of *Denmark*. The Princess was then but three years old; but it was agreed, that she should be educated by the dutchess of *Mecklenburgh*, mother to *Henry*, till she was marriageable; that *Waldemar* should give with her six thousand marks of silver, and that the towns of *Ribnitz*, *Gropenbus*, and *Tifin*, with their dependancies, should be assigned to the young Princess for her jointure*.

A. D.
1352

In the year 1352, the Dukes of *Stettin* on some slight pretences declared war against the Duke of *Mecklenburgh*; on which the King of *Denmark*, faithful to his friend and ally, led an army to his assistance. The Dukes of *Stettin*, little inclined to contend with a Prince, who by so powerful an auxiliary was become greatly their superior, rather chose to make *Waldemar* their arbitrator than their enemy, and by his good offices a peace was established.

A. D.
1358

Notwithstanding the King of *Denmark's* generosity, we find that six years after he

* Ibid.

had rendered this signal service to the Duke of *Mecklenburgh*, that Prince engaged in an alliance with the King of *Sweden* against him; but historians have left us in the dark as to the causes of this rupture. *Waldemar* made such powerful preparations against these combined enemies, that they thought it not advisable to pursue their intentions*. In the latter end of the year, the Duke resolved to invade *Zealand*, but finding the place too well prepared to receive him, he engaged the Duke of *Stettin* to negotiate his peace with *Waldemar*, which was effected without much difficulty.

This good agreement was, however, of short duration; for the next year the Earls of *Holftein* prevailed with the Duke of *Mecklenburgh* to assist them in a war they had commenced with *Denmark*. The Duke, in consequence of this alliance, fitted out a considerable fleet, and commanded in person the troops on board. He made a descent on the isle of *Fionia*, and after having taken possession of it,

A. D.
1359

* Ibid.

and destroyed the villages; he seized the King's ships which lay at anchor there, and carried them away, with many prisoners. A peace took place the following year, but no true amity was established.

A. D.
1306

A war soon after breaking out between *Waldemar* and the *Hans* towns; the latter prevailed with the King of *Norway*, the Duke of *Mecklenburgh*, *Henry* Count of *Holstein*, and some other Princes, to join them. They gave the command of their fleet to the Count of *Holstein*, who setting sail with the allied troops, landed at *Copenhagen*, took the citadel, and soon becoming master of the town, pillaged it*. From thence they sailed to *Helsingburgh*; but though they attacked it vigorously, yet their endeavours were frustrated by *Waldemar*; who, after destroying a considerable fleet, equipped by the city of *Lubeck*, marched towards *Helsingburgh*; and his approach so much alarmed the besiegers, that they retired with some precipitation.

* Ibid.

They

They soon after laid siege to *Wardburg*, but with no better success: the garrison, in a fall, destroyed so great a number of the allied army, that the Count promised to raise the siege, if the besieged would restore the prisoners they had taken. This condition was readily performed: but the Count having, in the mean time, received a reinforcement, unmindful of his engagement, renewed his attack with redoubled vigour. On which the commander, desirous of rendering him sensible of the ill effects of his treachery, feigned to be reduced to the last extremity, and desired the Count to depute some officers, into whose hands he might with honour deliver the keys of the place.

The Count, ready to believe so agreeable a circumstance, sent some of his chief officers into the town; where the commander, pretending to fulfil his promise, gave up the keys, and immediately after caused the officers to be seized and led to prison. The Count, disappointed of his hopes, and convinced of his error in breaking his word, found it necessary to raise

the siege of a town which he had little expectation of conquering; and quitted an enterprize, wherein he had cast a greater blemish on his honour, than on his courage,

The Princes, after such a train of ill-success, thought it advisable to make peace, nor was the King of *Denmark* averse to it. He had, in particular, a conference with *Albert* Duke of *Mecklenburgh* and his three sons *Henry*, *Albert*, and *Magnus*, wherein he made the last payment of the fortune of his daughter, whom he had given in marriage to *Henry**.

A. D.
1362

Magnus, King of *Sweden*, by marrying his son *Haquin* to *Margaret*, daughter to the King of *Denmark*, in opposition to the desires of his subjects, and the promises he had made them to the contrary, compleated their aversion to him. He had before not only consented to that Prince's espousing *Elizabeth*, sister to the Earl of *Holftein*, but had agreed, that if he did not complete that engagement, his subjects should be at full liberty to withdraw

* Ibid. *Pontanus*.

their

their allegiance from him, and to place that Earl on the throne*.

This clause was no idle menace; for, as soon as *Haquin*, was married to the Princess of *Denmark*, they put it in execution, and sent an offer of the crown to *Henry of Holstein*.

That Prince, whom age and experience had rendered wise, and in whom years had cooled the fire of vain ambition, was little inclined to involve the short remainder of life which nature would allow him, in so many troubles as must at that time fall to the share of a King of *Sweden*. Reigning over a turbulent people had few charms for a man, who was already the Sovereign of a more submissive, though a less extensive state. He thanked the *Swedes* for the great honour they had designed him, but excusing himself on his advanced age, recommended to their choice his cousin *Albert*, son to the Duke of *Mecklenburgh*.

The *Swedes* yielded to his recommendation, and offered the crown to *Albert*†;

* *Puffendorff*.

† *Ibid*.

who readily accepted it, with all its attendant cares. His mother was sister to King *Magnus*; therefore, if that Prince and his son were excluded the throne, he seemed to have some right to succeed. They conducted him into the isle of *Gothland*, where they proclaimed him King. In this place the Duke of *Mecklenburgh*, father to *Albert* repaired to them with a fleet sufficient to attack *Stockholm*, which yielded after a moderate resistance; the citizens being little inclined to fight in the cause of a King, who had rendered himself the object both of their contempt and hatred.

A. D.
1365

Though *Albert* had the name, he had yet by no means the power of a King. *Magnus* still retained a formidable party in the kingdom, among such as preferred present and known evils to the uncertain and calamitous events of a civil war. *Waldemar* was also in possession of some fortresses in *Sweden*; and *Magnus* was assured of all the assistance that Prince and the King of *Norway* could give him; the latter was his son, and he had secured *Waldemar*

~~demer~~ in his interest, by yielding to him some of the territory, and many of the rights of *Sweden*. With the auxiliaries furnished him by these Princes, *Magnus*, and his son *Haquin*, King of *Norway*, advanced as far as the province of *Upsal*, and expected by a decisive battle to have reduced *Albert* to relinquish his ambitious hopes. But the fortune of the day declared against him. His army was routed, his son wounded, and himself taken prisoner*.

Albert sent the King under the care of a strong guard to the castle of *Stockholm*, and endeavoured to reap the advantage of his victory, by reducing all the castles which were still possessed by *Magnus's* adherents: but he found this a very tedious enterprize. The Kings of *Denmark* and *Norway* sent such continual recruits to the garrisons, and were so watchful to take every opportunity of relieving them, that *Albert* made but very little progress in his undertaking.

* Ibid.

prevailed with his son *Albert*, King of *Sweden*, to enter into this alliance; and a mutual agreement was drawn up, by which was regulated, what parts of *Denmark* should be appropriated to each, every one allotting to himself those provinces which were most conveniently situated for him.

Waldemar's courage failed him, when he beheld the concourse of enemies with which his decline of life was threatened, and fearing to lose in his old age, the crown which his youthful labours had procured and preserved, he fled the storm that was gathering round him, and with a pusillanimity which ill corresponded with his former actions, abandoned his kingdom, and went to *Rome**, under colour of performing a vow he had made of going in pilgrimage to the holy see. He committed to the Senators the government of the state during his absence, and commissioned them to conclude a peace on almost any terms; flattering himself, that however dishonourable it might be, it would not

* *Pontanus*,

reflect infamy on him, as he should have no hand in concluding it.

The King's absence favoured the arms of the confederates: they seized the greatest part of *Denmark* thus abandoned to them, while the Senate busied itself in proposals of peace, instead of taking measures to oppose the invaders. But *Waldemar* had more time on his hands than was requisite for his pilgrimage; he therefore went to the Emperor, and representing the distressed condition to which he was reduced, implored his assistance. That Monarch recommended his interest to the Margrave of *Misnia*, the Duke of *Stettin*, and the Count of *Holfstein*, requesting them to use their utmost endeavours to restore him to his kingdom.

It appears, that *Waldemar* conceived no great hopes of effectual assistance from these Princes, since he applied to other powers; and indeed what service can a man who abandons himself, reasonably expect from others. He particularly sent Ambassadors to the Pope, who were commissioned to entreat him to use his authority,

A. D.
1370

thority, and that of the church, towards appeasing the troubles in *Denmark*: but the Pope excused himself from intermeddling in an affair wherein he could be no competent judge, he having heard but one side.

When the nobles of *Jutland* understood the answer his Holiness had returned, they deputed some persons to him, with orders to explain the motives of their proceedings; and these deputies represented the confederates in so good a light, that the Pope charged them with a letter for the King, wherein his Holiness exhorted him, "To change his restless temper into tranquillity of spirit, and his violence into gentleness;" Menacing him with excommunication if he did not correct his bad dispositions.

Waldemar's pride could ill bear a letter conceived in such haughty terms, and wrote an answer upon the spot, that did but little correspond with that fervent piety, to which he hoped the world would attribute his most unreasonable pilgrimage. The whole contents were as follows:

Walde-

Waldemar, King of the Danes, Goths, and Vandals, Sec. to the Roman Pontiff.

“Health——My life I received from
“ God; my crown from my subjects;
“ my wealth from my ancestors; from
“ your predecessors I hold only my faith,
“ and if you attempt to take advantage of
“ it, I hereby restore it to you. Adieu*.”

The spirit expressed in this concise epistle deterred the Pope from engaging with a Prince, whom he could not expect to influence by means, which if superstition did not cloath with terrors, must prove totally unavailing: he therefore concerned himself no farther in the affair.

The Grand Marshal of *Denmark* exerted himself to much better purpose. He contrived, notwithstanding the general engagement into which the confederates had entered, to commence a separate treaty. He saw no better means of saving the kingdom, than to weaken the confederate forces by disuniting them; and actuated by this view, he knew not where to address

* Ibid.

himself

himself so well as to the *Hans* towns; for he was sensible, that mercantile people are apt to prefer pecuniary interests to a point of honour. The Grand Marshal assigned over to the *Hans* towns the cities of *Helsingburgh*, *Malmogen*, *Scanor*, and *Falsterbo*, for fifteen years; advantages more than equivalent to what they could have hoped from a continuance of the war, since all the parties concerned in it were equally watchful for their own interests.

By this treaty, *Denmark* was delivered from its invaders: the enemies lost much of their strength by the defection of the *Hans* towns, whose power at sea rendered their assistance peculiarly necessary, in an attempt on *Denmark*; and such a breach of faith gave birth to suspicions in the minds of the confederates; they knew not how to trust each other; for the *Hans* towns had shewn them how little dependance can be had on the most solemn engagements. They withdrew therefore their troops from *Denmark*, and *Waldemar* ventured to return into his kingdom.

The

The Duke of *Mecklenburgh* found sufficient employment for his arms, in the assistance he gave to his son the King of *Sweden*. *Haquin* entered the kingdom at the head of so powerful an army, that *Albert* was obliged to quit the field: when *Haquin*, finding no enemy who dared to encounter him, would not waste his forces on a trifling enterprize, but laid siege to *Stockholm*. *Albert* had placed a strong garrison in the town, and the citizens, by readily admitting that Prince, had rendered themselves so obnoxious to the King of *Norway*, that they could not but be very unwilling to fall into his hands. To reduce a town thus defended was no small undertaking. *Haquin* endeavoured to take it by storm, but after several long and unsuccessful attempts, both parties found it advisable to enter into a negotiation, which ended in a treaty of peace; wherein it was stipulated, that *Magnus* should be released on paying twelve thousand marks for his ransom; that he should yield the kingdom of *Sweden*, and his title to the province of *Scania* to *Albert*; pass the re-

M

mainder

mainder of his life in *Norway*, and enjoy the revenues arising from *West-Gothia*, and the provinces of *Wernland* and *Dukia*. Sixty noblemen were sureties for the performance of this agreement, who engaged, in case of any failure on *Magnus's* part, to surrender themselves as prisoners to King *Albert*. A penalty which they never had occasion to pay; for *Magnus* continued in *Norway*, till he was accidentally drowned in passing the ford at *Blomenfort*.

The Duke of *Mecklenburgh*, though much advanced in years, had not outlived his ambition. One of his sons was already King of *Sweden*, and his grandson by *Henry* and *Indelburga*, was lawful heir to the kingdom of *Denmark*; to be the father and grandfather of two such powerful Monarchs, was a charm which his age could not resist. *Waldemar*, King of *Denmark*, who died on the twenty-fifth of *October*, in the year 1375, left no male issue. His eldest daughter *Ingeburga* had been married to *Henry* of *Mecklenburgh*, by whom she had a son named *Albert*. His younger daughter *Margaret*, as we have already

ready mentioned, espoused *Haquin*, King of *Norway*, and bore him a son named *Olaus*.

As soon as *Waldemar* died, *Margaret* prevailed with the *Danes* to acknowledge her son, then an infant, for their King*, and herself for his guardian, and the protectress of the state. The Duke of *Mecklenburgh* complained of the injustice done his grandson, and levied a powerful army to assert the young *Albert's* right: the King of *Sweden* likewise espoused the interest of his nephew, and agreed to unite his forces with his father's; but his fleet was in a great measure destroyed by a tempest, and most of his vessels wrecked, which rendered them unable to join in the enterprize, and he was obliged to return into *Sweden*†.

A. D.
1376

This event was so great a disappointment to the Duke, that he agreed with *Margaret* to refer his cause to arbitration; promising to acquiesce in the judgment of the umpires. Their determination was, that the young *Olaus*, and *Margaret* his mother, should possess the kingdom of

* Ibid. *Meursius*.

† Ibid.

Denmark; that *Albert* should preserve his right to the crown, without its being in any manner invalidated by the election of *Olaus*; and that he should inherit such part of his grandfather's succession, as the Margrave of *Misnia* should judge due to him. Before this agreement was signed, the old Duke died, and his grandson surviving him but a short time, *Olaus* had no longer any competitor. He soon after ascended also the throne of *Norway*, vacant by the death of *Haquin* his father.

A. D.

1380

Albert II.

Henry.

Albert had by *Euphemia*, his first wife, sister to *Magnus Smeck*, King of *Sweden*, three sons, *Albert* King of *Sweden*, *Magnus* the First, and *Henry* Suspensor, both Dukes of *Mecklenburgh*; and two daughters, *Anne* wife to *Adolphus* the Seventh, Count of *Holstein*, and *Ingeburga*, first married to *John* the Fourth, Elector of *Brandenburgh*, and afterwards to *Lewis* the Roman, Elector of *Brandenburgh*, son to the Emperor *Lewis*.

Albert, King of *Sweden*, taking advantage of the absence of *Olaus*, who was detained in *Norway* to perform the funeral cere-

ceremonies of the deceased King, and his own coronation, made an irruption into *Scania*; but the chief nobles of the country opposed him so successfully, that he willingly consented to a truce for fifteen months.

As soon as this term was expired, *Albert* re-entered *Scania*, and took the town of *Labolm* by assault; but retired into his own kingdom at the approach of *Margaret*, who came at the head of an army to offer him battle.

Olaus King of *Denmark* died the next year. As he was the last male of the royal family, and it had not been usual for the females to ascend the thrones of the northern kingdoms, the crown was at the disposal of the States General. *Margaret*, who, during her regency, had sufficiently evinced that her sex did not incapacitate her for so high a trust, could not allow, that it ought to exclude her from the throne.

A. D.
1385

Henry of *Mecklenburgh*, husband to *Ingeburga*, urged his wife's prior right, and the advantages of his sex; but the hatred the *Danes* bore the *Swedes*, with whom

Henry had so long been allied, and was now more closely connected, by being brother to their King, was to them an insurmountable objection against raising him to the *Danish* throne. On the other hand, *Margaret* had conducted herself so well during her regency, and with so much art attached the principal persons of both kingdoms to her interest, that she was acknowledged Sovereign in each*.

The *Norwegians* soon grew, in some measure, dissatisfied at being governed by a woman; and by one also, who having no children to succeed her, would at her death, leave the state in the confusion, which must, in an hereditary kingdom, arise from the want of a lawful successor: they, on this account, pressed her to marry; but she was not much inclined to give into the hands of another, the power which she so well knew how to use: however, to calm their discontents, she offered to appoint a successor; desiring them to name the person whom they thought best intitled to the crown after her decease.

* *Pontanus. Meursius.*

The states answered, That the children of *Wratiflas* the Seventh, Duke of *Pomerania*, by *Mary*, the daughter of *Henry* Duke of *Mecklenburgh* and *Ingeburga*, were the undoubted heirs; and they left to her the choice of the Prince which in that family she most approved. *Eric's* youth was his greatest recommendation; and she preferred him, because it would be many years before he could become a dangerous competitor. The Duke of *Pomerania* could not refuse such exaltation, and according to the Queen's desire, sent his son into *Denmark*.

Henry of *Mecklenburgh* did not find in his grandson's good fortune any consolation for his own disappointment. He ardently wished to be revenged for the affront put upon him; and *Margaret*, by assuming the title of Queen of *Sweden*, had given such umbrage to *Albert*, that he readily concurred in his brother's views. They jointly declared war against *Margaret*, and despising her on account of her sex, judged her an easy conquest. *Albert* and *Margaret* had a verbal war; they la-

A. D.
1388

vished witticisms on each other, which were suited to the grossness of the age, and did as little honour to their delicacy, as to their understanding*; but served to add private pique and personal hatred to political opposition. This temper of mind incited them to prosecute with more vigour, a war, to which ambition first gave rise. *Margaret* was assisted by the Prince of *Pomerania*; and was mistress of the joint forces of *Denmark* and *Norway*, but might not have proved too powerful an adversary for the King of *Sweden*, and his brother the Duke of *Mecklenburgh*, had not *Albert* created more formidable enemies in his own kingdom, by oppressing his subjects, and introducing foreigners into the greatest offices in the state†.

Margaret increased the discontent of the *Swedes* by every art; and found it not much more difficult to gain their favour, than to procure the esteem of the *Danes* and *Norwegians*. The malecontents deputed some of their chiefs to represent their grievances, and ask aid of *Margaret*, since

* Ibid,

† *Puffendorff*.

they

they were determined to oppose their King by force, who was not to be influenced by any remonstrances. *Margaret*, whose great ambition was to unite under her sway the three northern kingdoms, remained steady to her purpose, and would not grant them the assistance they sued for on an uncertain prospect of advantage; she therefore replied, That, "as she could not undertake their defence without hazarding two crowns, she expected to be recompensed for the danger to which she must expose herself, by a certainty of acquiring a third, if she assisted them effectually." The *Swedes* were not much pleased with the terms she required, but as her aid was necessary to secure them from *Albert's* vengeance, who was well acquainted with their practices, they found it advisable to comply with her demands, and purchase her protection on any conditions: they accordingly promised her the crown*, which was the object of her wishes. This engagement was followed by the defection of a great part of the king-

* Ibid. *Meursius*.

dom of *Sweden*, who renounced their allegiance to *Albert*, and acknowledged *Margaret* for their Sovereign.

This turn in *Albert's* affairs alarmed him; he fought, and obtained the alliance of *Bugislaus* Duke of *Stargard* his cousin; with that of the Counts of *Helflein*, and some other German Princes; besides his nephew, *John* of *Mecklenburg*, who, on the death of his father *Magnus* and uncle *Henry*, having succeeded to that dutchy, was attached to his interest. To procure money for the support of the army he had raised, he mortgaged the isle of *Gothland* to the Grand Master of the *Teutonic* Knights, for a considerable sum.

A. D.
1388

As *Albert*, in the discontented state of his kingdom, knew not where to gain a fresh supply of money when this was spent, nothing could reduce him into greater difficulties than prolonging the war; he, therefore, to bring it to a speedy issue, sent a sort of challenge to *Margaret*, inviting her to give him battle on St. *Matthew's* day, on a plain near *Falkoping*. The
Queen

Queen accepted the defiance, and the two armies engaged accordingly.

Each fought with extreme valour, and great slaughter ensued, but at length victory declared on the side of the *Danes*; and great numbers of their enemies were slain; but what proved most welcome to the conqueror, the King of *Sweden* and his son, the Count of *Holstein*, with many persons of the first consideration in the *Swedish* army, were taken prisoners*. *Albert*, and *Eric* his son, were thrown into prison, where they were kept in close confinement.

The greatest part of the *Swedes*, who had continued obedient to *Albert*, refused to acknowledge *Margaret* for their Queen, declaring it inconsistent with their honour, to substitute another Sovereign in the place of their captive King, since the laws had not deposed him; and therefore they deferred settling the contest for the throne while he remained in prison: a plausible pretence for delaying their submission to a Princess, to whom they were unwilling to

* Ibid. *Puffendorff*.

give the crown. This prevented her being duly acknowledged; for *Albert's* adherents still possessed the town of *Stockholm*, and some other places of consequence. We may reasonably attribute this proceeding, rather to their dislike to *Margaret*, than to their attachment to *Albert*, since it was the only proof they gave of their regard for him, for they made no effort to procure him his liberty. Their *German* allies accused them of perfidy and cowardice on this account; to which they replied, " That they were
" not bound to procure his release from
" prison, since it was not by their advice
" that he had taken arms, or given battle
" to the *Danes*; but, that the *Germans*,
" who had been the sole authors of the
" war, and the cause of all his misfor-
" tunes, ought to use their best endeavours
" to extricate him out of the distress where-
" in they had involved him." The *Germans* did not seek to be exempt from this duty; they wished the *Swedes* would have shared it with them, but were not discouraged by the backwardness of others.

The

The Duke of *Mecklenburgh*, and the cities of *Rostock* and *Wismar*, levied an army, which the Duke commanded. The fleet wherein they were embarked was dispersed by a tempest in its way to *Stockholm*, but the Duke gathered his scattered ships together, and still proceeded to the city, which was then besieged by the *Danes* and *Swedish* malecontents. He landed his troops, and found the town in great disorder, more distressed by private dissensions than by the besiegers. There was in it a strong garrison of *Germans*; but a mutual hatred subsisted between them and the citizens, who were often accused by the garrison of holding a treacherous correspondence with *Queen Margaret*; a fact the more probable, as the miseries they suffered must incline them to secure her protection; for they could not be in the hands of more merciless enemies than the *Germans*, who, upon accusations true or false, put many of them to the torture, to discover their accomplices in the conspiracies with which they were charged.

Their

THE HISTORY OF

Their reciprocal animosities rose so high, that each side at last took arms, and a battle would have ensued, had not the Governor of the castle and the Senators exerted their utmost power and influence to reconcile them. They prevailed with them to swear, " They would faithfully unite in one interest, and no longer insult each other; and that if the malecontents were successful, the citizens should not suffer the garrison to be ill treated, nor the garrison permit the citizens to be injured, if the King's party gained the superiority." This reconciliation did not long subsist, the garrison soon after assembled the Senators and principal citizens, under pretence of having some affair of consequence to offer to their consideration. When they arrived, a list was read of persons accused of treason; the greatest part of whom were seized, and put to the torture, in so cruel a manner, that some of them expired under their torments, and those who survived, being shut up in a house, to which the garrison set fire, were consumed with it.

It

MECKLENBURGH.

175

It was just after this dreadful massacre, that Duke *John* of *Mecklenburgh* arrived. He provided the town with such a supply of ammunition and provisions as would suffice the inhabitants for a considerable time; and then leaving the city, laid waste the country around it. As if the miseries already occasioned by the war, were too slight a punishment for his enemies, he published a proclamation at *Wismar* and *Rostock*, whereby he promised free access to his ports, and powerful protection to all, who should be inclined to annoy by sea, or land, any of the three northern kingdoms. Hence the *Baltic* was in a very short time covered with pirates, who, uniting in companies, composed several formidable fleets, wherewith they ravaged the coasts of those kingdoms, which were given up to them by the Duke of *Mecklenburgh*; who required no other recompence than that they should constantly supply the city of *Stockholm* with provisions. It was on account of this condition that they assumed the name of *Purveyors*. This set of people at length grew so powerful,

erful, that they equally plundered friends and enemies; and after the conclusion of the war, the *Hans* towns found great difficulty in exterminating so established a band of pirates.

A. D.
1394

Sweden continued in this wretched condition till the year 1394, when all parties seemed weary of a war, wherein neither side obtained any considerable advantage; while the kingdom endured the utmost excess of misery. At length a treaty was concluded by the Duke of *Mecklenburgh*, his allies, and Queen *Margaret* in person, wherein it was agreed, That King *Albert* and the Prince his son should be restored to liberty, on condition, that in three years they should renounce all pretensions to the crown of *Sweden*, or deliver themselves up to be again imprisoned. The *Hans* towns were guarantees of the treaty, and engaged, in case of non-performance, to pay sixty thousand marks. A suspension of arms and free commerce were agreed upon for three years, during which time the city of *Stockholm* was to remain in the possession of the *Hans* towns, to
secure

secure to them the sixty thousand marks which they obliged themselves to pay, if King *Albert* violated the treaty*.

The Queen required also a large sum for the King's ransom; but the dutchy of *Mecklenburgh* was so exhausted by this long war, that it was difficult to raise it. In this emergency, the ladies gave a strong proof of their generosity and loyal attachment to their Sovereign, by selling their jewels and ornaments, and even the most valuable part of their apparel, to compleat the sum. An action *Albert* afterwards recompenced by a law, which rendered the daughters of the nobility capable of succeeding to the lands held as fiefs of the Sovereign. As soon as this treaty was signed, *Albert* returned into *Mecklenburgh*, and reigned, as was usual in the *German* principalities, jointly with his nephew. He had sat on the throne of *Sweden* twenty-three years, and was so little disposed to relinquish the hopes of repossessing it, that he chose rather to pay the sixty thousand marks, than to resign the city of *Stockholm*.

* Ibid. *Meyers.*

He went into *Prussia* to negotiate in person an alliance with the Knights, who yielded to him the isle of *Gotland*, which they had seized in right of the same they had advanced him on that condition. He passed from *Prussia* into that island, where he regulated the government, and left Prince *Eric* to keep a court there, and to be ready to repel any attempts that might be made upon it.

A. D.
1397

The death of this young Prince, which happened soon after he was in possession of *Gotland*, conquered *Albert's* ambition, which all the power and success of Queen *Margaret* could only mortify, but not repress. The afflicted father ceased to covet a crown, to which his son could no longer succeed; and did not think himself excusable in prosecuting a war, in hopes of obtaining a kingdom, which the Prince who had partaken of his misfortunes could not share with him. He therefore delivered *Stockholm*, with some other places he had retained in *Sweden*, into the hands of Queen *Margaret*, and in pursuance of the

the treaty renounced all pretensions to the crown*.

Though he was advanced in years, yet he married *Helen*, daughter of *Magnus Torquatus*, Duke of *Brunswic*, and ruled peaceably in *Mecklenburg* till the year 1412; the usual disorders in that dutchy having been much repressed by the care of his brother *Henry*, who, during the time *Albert* reigned in *Sweden*, having the whole government in his hands, applied himself to extirpate the race of robbers, or free-booters, which had for many ages infested that country. He treated these disturbers of his people's peace and safety with the utmost severity, and never pardoned a man who was convicted of having the smallest share in a robbery, however considerable his rank; for some of the principal men in his dominions were found among these lawless banditti. If any friends to the condemned attempted to intercede for him, he only answered, That "to suffer the death decreed by the laws, " was more eligible, than to be slain by

* Ibid.

"those he would attempt to plunder." This severity fixed on him the surname of *The Hanger* *. . . He died twelve years before *Albert* returned into *Mecklenburgh*, leaving the private property of his subjects in a greater state of security than it had ever been before.

If we may believe the *Danish* historians, *Albert's* endeavours in his treaty of peace with *Waldemar*, King of *Denmark*, to secure to the Dukes of *Mecklenburgh* the sovereignty of their dominions, was of little validity; for they tell us, that *John* Duke of *Mecklenburgh*, and *Ulric* Duke of *Stargard*, son to *John*, on whom the Emperor had first conferred that dignity, did homage to the Queen of *Denmark*, and and to the young *Eric* their cousin, her associate in the kingdom. The Dukes likewise engaged to assist them in whatsoever war they should be involved †; and, on no account, to enter into any treaty with the enemies of the northern kingdoms.

A. D.
1411

* *Martinière.*

† *Meurfius.*

MECKLENBURGH.

181

The next year died *Albert*, the second Duke of *Mecklenburgh*, and the first King of *Sweden* of that name. By *Richarda*, daughter to the Count of *Scheurin*, with whom he obtained that county, he had a son and daughter; *Eric*, who died before him, and *Richarda*, who married *John* Duke of *Moravia*, brother to the Emperor *Sigismund*. By his second wife *Helen*, daughter to the Duke of *Brunswic*, he left one son named *Albert**; who, at the time of his father's death, was not fifteen years of age. This Prince reigned jointly with *John* the Second, his cousin, who had succeeded *Henry Suspensor*, and been partner in the government with King *Albert*. For the Princes of *Mecklenburgh*, sensible how much the state was enfeebled by being divided, had come to an agreement, that the elder brother should succeed to the dominions, while the younger

A. D.

1412

Albert IV.

* As *Albert* the son of *Henry Suspensor* had, notwithstanding his youth, been ranked among the Dukes of *Mecklenburgh*, *Albert* the King of *Sweden*'s son is reckoned the fourth Duke of that name.

should enjoy only that share of power which could be amicably allotted him.

*Ulric Duke of Stargard** had been chosen arbitrator between Queen *Margaret* and the Dukes of *Brunswic, Holstein,* and *Skfwick*, who had long been at variance. Each side had submitted to his determination; but Queen *Margaret* dying immediately after the affair was concluded, *Eric* her successor refused to ratify the conditions, and summoned the parties before the general assembly of the states; requiring them to submit the matter in question to the judgment of the Senate: he likewise invited the Dukes of *Mecklenburgh*, and some other Princes, who had been associated in the arbitration, to be present at the decision.

An impartial sentence was not to be expected from the *Danish* Senate, when their King was a party concerned: accordingly, it was such as alarmed many of those who acknowledged that Monarch for their Sovereign. The Dukes of *Holstein* and *Brunswic* retired dissatisfied, and

* Ibid.

had recourse to arms for the defence of their rights. The Dukes of *Mecklenburgh*, among many others, joined them; and they united in open war against *Denmark*. It was carried on for some time without any great superiority on either side; but at length the King laid siege to *Stefenick*. *John Duke of Mecklenburgh* had retired into this town, but found it less defensible than he expected. He resisted the arms of the besieger till he was driven to such extremity, that he could not obtain any capitulation, without engaging never to bear arms against the kingdom of *Denmark**, but to maintain a lasting amity with *Eric*. In consequence of this treaty he returned home, leaving his allies much weakened by his defection. The peace which the Dukes of *Mecklenburgh* enjoyed by this means, afforded them leisure to attend to the regulations of government, and the cultivation of literature. They jointly founded the university of *Rostock*, as an encouragement and improvement of the learning they loved, but which had hi-

A. D.

1417 .

A. D.

1419

* Ibid.

therto made little progress in their dominions; for the people looked with a jealous eye on the increase of arts and sciences; fearing lest the cultivation of mental talents should turn the general attention from arms; and, by softening their manners, damp that spirit and courage to which for so many ages, when surrounded by several greater states, they had been indebted for their preservation from absolute slavery. The reputation the two Dukes had acquired for justice and wisdom, occasioned their being chosen umpires between the King of *Denmark* and the Dukes of *Holstein*: but such contrary interests are not easily reconciled; and we find that they were not successful in their endeavours, for the war still continued.

A. D.
1420

The pacific reign of these two Princes proved too short: they both died in the year 1423. *Albert* had been married to *Margaret* daughter of *Frederic*, Elector of *Brandenburg*, but left no issue. *John* married for his first wife *Judith*, daughter to the Count of *Hoya*; and for his second, *Catherine*, daughter to *Eric* Duke of *Saxe-*

A. D.
1423

Lawen-

Lauenburg: two sons survived him, *John* the Third, and *Henry*, surnamed *Pinguis*, or *The Fat*, who inherited his dominions.

John III.
Henry
Pinguis.

Ulric the First, Duke of *Stargard*, had been succeeded in the year 1417 by his son *Henry*, of whose actions we have little account. We only learn, that *Christopher* the Third, King of *Denmark*, demanded a conference with him and other of the northern Princes, at *Visenac*; where it was imagined a confederacy was signed against the city of *Lubec*, in order to humble that opulent and proud republic; but the King, who chose to attack them by stratagem, rather than by open force, found himself disappointed in the arts he used to gain admittance into the town, and determined to delay the execution of the treaty, which by his death came to nothing.

A. D.
1443

The civil wars which subsisted in *Sweden* and *Denmark*, with only short intermissions, from the early part of the reign of *Eric* the Sixth, to the division of those states by the accession of *Gustavus Ericson* to the

the throne of *Sweden*, was very conducive to the peace of the adjacent parts of *Germany*. The Kings of *Denmark* had always been their most formidable neighbours, and continually attempted to establish a sovereignty which the others as indefatigably endeavoured to shake off: but the acquisition of *Sweden* afforded the *Danes* sufficient employment for their arms; to keep that kingdom in obedience was so difficult a task, that they had little leisure to turn their thoughts southward; and less power to make encroachments on that side of their already too extensive dominions. This was a benefit very happily felt in *Mecklenburgh*; as it gave the Dukes an opportunity, scarcely ever enjoyed by their predecessors, of regulating the interior concerns of the state. During their long and pacific administration, their subjects enjoyed a happy tranquillity, unmolested by their neighbours, and unoppressed by their Sovereigns; who not only wished to share with them so rare a blessing, but to settle the government in such a manner, that it should no longer be liable to the abuses which

which had hitherto reigned therein; nor easily reduced into the like confusion, although the same kind of troubles from abroad should recur.

John the Third, had married *Ann*, daughter to *Casimir* the Sixth, Duke of *Pomerania Stettin*; but she having brought him no children, he died without issue A. D. in the year 1443*, and *Henry* thereby be- 1443 came sole Duke of *Mecklenburgh*.

This Prince was peculiarly fortunate: having seen a large addition to his dominions, without any diminution of his peace of mind, by that burden which must ever lie on the conscience of a conqueror; who cannot at all hours be insensible to the guilt of having purchased his greatness by the destruction of thousands. *Henry* lived to see his principality more encreased by lawful inheritance; than he could have hoped from the most successful conquests; and the country, which had been divided ever since the reign of *Henry Burwin* the First, became united beneath his sway †.

* *Anderson's Gen.* † *Martiniers.*

To render this intelligible, it is necessary to remind our readers, that *Henry Burtwin* the First, resigned the administration to his two sons, *Henry* the Second, and *Nicholas*. *Henry* died before his father, *Nicholas* survived him but a short time; and leaving no issue, the four sons of *Henry* the Second divided among themselves the dominions both of their father and uncle. The male line of *Henry* the Third, ended in his grandson. *Pribislaus* was succeeded by a son of the same name, who, as we have before mentioned, being taken prisoner by the Bishop of *Schuerin*, sold his territory to his cousins, in order to procure the sum required for his ransom.

By this means, *John* the First and *Nicholas*, came into possession of the whole dutchy: the former resided at *Mecklenburgh*, the latter at *Gustrow*. Each of these Princes had a numerous posterity; but in the year 1436, the male line of *Nicholas* ended in *William*, who left an only daughter, *Catherine*, married to *Ulric* the Second, Duke of *Stargard*, great grandson to *John* the First, Duke of *Stargard*.

Ulric

MECKLENBURGH.

189

Ulric died in the year 1471, without issue, whereby the dukedom of *Stargard*, and principality of *Gustrow*, both reverted to *Henry Pinguis*, as the only remaining heir*. A. D. 1471

This Prince survived the acquisition but six years. He had by *Dorothy* his wife, daughter to *Frederic* the First, Elector of *Brandenburgh*, four sons; *Albert*, who succeeded to the dukedom; *John*, who died before his father; *Magnus*, and *Balthazar*, Bishop of *Schuerin*; and two daughters; *Ann*, who died unmarried, and *Elizabeth*, Abbess of *Ribnity*†. A. D. 1477

Albert died in the same year with his father, and was succeeded by *Magnus* the Second, his brother. *Albert.*

Magnus did not long enjoy his dignity without a partner. *Balthazar*, little inclined to the life of an Ecclesiastic, relinquished his bishopric, and marrying *Margaret*, daughter to *Eric* the Second Duke of *Pomerania*, assumed the title of Duke of *Mecklenburgh*, and shared the power with his brother. *Magnus.*
Balthazar.

* Ibid. † *Anderson's Genealogical Tables.*

Magnus

Magnus distinguished himself beyond most of his cotemporaries in prudence and generosity: these two qualities were happily tempered in him; and regulated his whole conduct; but could not preserve him from a very troublesome affair with the town of *Rosstock*; which gave greater interruption to the tranquillity of his reign than he had any reason to expect, since the cause did not appear adequate to the disturbance it occasioned. He was desirous of erecting the church of *St. James* in that city, into a cathedral, to which the citizens made a strong opposition. *Magnus*, who did not think their consent by any means necessary, payed little regard to their protestations against it, and established the chapter.

The citizens, no less resolute than their Sovereign, took arms, killed the Provost, cast the Dean into prison, and drove the Canons out of the city. *Magnus* would not suffer the sedition to go unpunished; he invested the town with a considerable body of troops, and determined to reduce them to obedience by force, since he had
not

not been able to prevail with them by reason.

The citizens, animated by the fear of punishment, defended themselves with vigour. Their courage rendered his attacks fruitless, and their vigilance deprived him of all hopes of taking the town by surprize. The siege was tedious; the Duke grew weary of spending so much time in endeavouring to reduce one city; and saw no very near prospect of succeeding in his attempt. The citizens were no less tired of a contention which put an entire stop to their commerce, and even without subduing, must ruin them. Mutual inconvenience, at length produced a mutual inclination for peace; and each side was equally ready to consent to an accommodation. A treaty was drawn up, whereby it was agreed, that the city should pay a sum of money to indemnify the Duke for the expences they had occasioned; that the chapter, to which they had shewn themselves so averse; should be established, and those who had been driven out of the town reinstated in their honours and possessions; but, that the

the offices which had been conferred, should remain to those who were invested with them, and be enjoyed by them during their lives.

This affair was no sooner finished to the satisfaction of *Magnus*, than he was invited by the Pope's Legate to meet him at *Lubec*, that they might join their endeavours for the establishment of a peace between the regency of that city, and *John* King of *Denmark*. Those two powers had long carried on a war with equal success; for the King's forces being chiefly engaged in *Sweden*, where the dissensions still subsisted, he could make but a feeble opposition to any other enemy. As the troubles in that kingdom were sufficient to engage *John's* whole attention, he wished to be delivered from a quarrel which divided both his thoughts and his army. The Legate was commissioned by the Pope to seek every means of reconciling the Christian Princes, in order to prevail on them to make war with the Infidels; his Holiness being then endeavouring to instigate all *Christendom* to undertake

dertake a crusado *. This concurrence in inclination, though on different motives, occasioned a conference, in which Prince *Frederic*, the King's brother, joined the Legate and the Duke of *Mecklenburgh* in their mediation; and omitted no means for establishing a peace; but the obstinacy of the citizens of *Lubec*, who saw this opportunity peculiarly favourable for securing their independency; and the pride of the King, who could not well bear to have haughty terms required by a city, which he looked upon as part of his dominions, were insurmountable impediments to the endeavours of the mediators; and no progress was made towards a reconciliation, when death deprived *Mecklenburgh* of its Duke, whose virtues rendered him sincerely regretted by his subjects. A. D. 1503

Magnus married *Sophia*, daughter of *Eric* the Second, Duke of *Pomerania*, who had been betrothed to *John* his elder brother, but that Prince dying before the nuptials were celebrated, she became the wife of the reigning Duke. She bore him three

* *Meursius*.

Eric, Henry, Albert. sons *Eric*, *Henry*, and *Albert* surnamed *The Fair*; who ruled jointly; and four daughters, *Sophia*, who married *John*, Elector of *Saxony*; *Dorothy*, Abbess of *Ribnitz*; *Ann*, espoused to *William*, Landgrave of *Hesse*, and *Catherine*, who became the wife of *Henry the Pious*, Duke of *Saxony*. *Eric* survived his father but five years, and seems to have spent that time rather like a scholar than a Prince. He had performed his studies at *Wittemberg*, *Rostock*, and *Bononia*, and conceived too great a fondness for literature to attend to the affairs of government; but his want of application was well supplied by the diligence of his two brothers *Henry* and *Albert*.

In that age of surnames, when few Princes escaped the addition of some epithet to the names given them by baptism and inheritance, which were seldom truly characteristic, and sometimes opprobrious, *Henry* was peculiarly happy in obtaining, and still more in deserving, the appellations of *The Pacific*, and *The Father of his Country*; the most glorious titles that can be conferred on a Prince.

Duke

Bishop of *Schuerin*, who had embraced the Lutheran religion, and married *Elizabeth*, daughter to *Frederick* the First, King of *Denmark*, died two years before him, without leaving any issue; and *Philip* his younger son, soon appeared so deficient in understanding, as to be only an object of grief to his father.

Henry's first wife was *Ursula*, daughter of *John*, Elector of *Brandenburgh*, by whom he had one son named *Magnus*; and two daughters, *Sophia*, wife of *Ernest* of *Zell*, Duke of *Luneburgh*, and *Ursula*, Abbess of *Ribnitz*. His second wife was *Helena*, daughter of *Philip*, Elector *Palatine*, who bore him likewise one son named *Philip*, and two daughters, *Margaret*, wife to *Henry* the Second, Duke of *Munsterburgh*, and *Catherine*, wife to *Frederick* the Third, Duke of *Leignitz*. After the death of *Helena*, *Henry* married *Ursula*, daughter of *Magnus* the Second, Duke of *Saxe Lawenburgh*, by whom he had no issue. *Philip's* imbecillity excluded him from the administration, to which therefore *John Albert*, eldest son to *Albert* the Sixth,

*John Al-
bert.*

Sixth, succeeded. His brother *Ulric*, Bishop of *Schuerin*, concurred with him in forming a body of excellent laws, and improving the police of the country. They likewise applied themselves diligently to the establishment of the Lutheran doctrine, which had made considerable progress under the benign influence of their uncle's pacific administration. They proceeded in the usual manner towards a reformation: they banished images, and destroyed monasteries; and with the lands which had been appropriated to some of them, they endowed the university of *Roslock*; making those possessions which had been dedicated to the support of the indolent, and too often illiterate, serve for an encouragement to the learned, as well as a means to enable many to prosecute the study of useful knowledge.

The union which at first appeared between the two brothers, did not long continue uninterrupted. *Ulric* married the widow of his deceased cousin, *Elizabeth*, daughter to *Frederic* the First, King of *Denmark*. We may from the sequel reasonably

sonably conclude, that the Princess, who was the daughter of a King, and had been married to the presumptive heir of the dutchy of *Mecklenburgh*, was not well satisfied with being the wife of a Bishop; and therefore instigated *Ulric* to make himself a more worthy husband to a woman of her rank: an instance of pride more to be blamed than wondered at in a Princess, who by birth seemed intitled to a higher station. However this be, we find that he, who before had acted in concurrence with all his brother's views, and lived with him in the greatest amity, was no sooner married, than he declared the bishopric of *Schuerin* too small a part of the succession, and demanded a more equal division of the sovereignty.

John Albert rejected his claim, alledging a former agreement, whereby it was settled, that the eldest brother should have the sole government of the state. *Ulric* urged that this regulation might be valid, in regard to that part of the dutchy which had for some generations composed their whole territory, but ought not to regulate

the inheritance of those countries which had fallen to them by the extinction of two collateral branches of *Gustrow* and *Star-gard*: but *Albert* would not allow the agreement to be thus restrained; and there appeared little chance of settling this affair in an amicable manner.

Ulric had gone too far to recede. He had disgusted his brother, and broken the friendship that had hitherto subsisted between them; he must therefore be contented, either to live in as humble submission as the Duke's other subjects, without the share of that power which fraternal affection would naturally have imparted; or procure by force, what his brother had refused to his request: he did not long balance which part to take in such an alternative.

As the division of a state must necessarily weaken it, the neighbouring Princes could not be ill inclined to *Ulric's* cause. Accordingly, he easily prevailed with the Duke of *Brunswic* to enable him to assert his claim, by bringing a powerful body of troops to his assistance. That Prince entered

tered *Mecklenburgh* at the head of his army, before *John Albert* had made any preparations to oppose an enemy whom he did not at all expect. He saw *Boitzezenburgh*, one of the strongest places in his dominions, taken before he was able to defend it; and the Duke ready to make still greater progress.

To enable himself to oppose so unforeseen an attack, he summoned his nobles to repair to him with all possible speed; attended by the complement of cavalry, with which they were obliged by the tenure of their fiefs, to furnish him on any emergency.

His summons proved ineffectual: the fear of a civil war operated more strongly on the minds of the nobility, than the desire of keeping the state united under one Sovereign. The disobedience was general; not one would repair to his standard. *Ulric* was in the Duke of *Brunswic's* camp; and the nobles declared they could not take arms against one of their Sovereigns. This proceeding had the effect they intended: it rendered their Duke in-

capable of maintaining a war, therefore he had no recourse but to consent to a peace, which the nobles very readily undertook to negotiate. The terms of the agreement were, that the two Dukes should equally share the government of the territories they had inherited from their father and uncle, as well as of the church lands they had seized; that *Ulric* should be paid half the treasures of which their uncle had died possessed; and that he should, moreover, enjoy the whole revenues of the bishopric of *Schuerin*. The provincial states and Burgo-masters of *Rostock* engaged to defray the expences of the war; and particularly advanced sixteen thousand crowns for the payment of the Duke of *Brunswic*'s troops.

Ulric.

A. D.
1565

The city of *Rostock* also gave *John Albert* some disturbance. The people and the magistrates had for a considerable time been at variance; from which arose so destructive an anarchy, that they readily admitted the Duke of *Mecklenburgh*'s claim of judging the case in dispute between them.

The

The citizens had elected sixty from among themselves, as Governors of the town: these they opposed to the real magistrates, to whom they refused obedience. The Duke abolished these Governors; whereupon the people produced writings to convince him, that for a hundred and forty years they had enjoyed a power of creating sixty Tribunes to defend their rights, and serve them as protectors against the magistrates, in case of any oppression. The Duke having got these writings into his hands, tore them, and cast the pieces into the fire; a breach of trust which threw the people into the utmost consternation; while the Senate exulted with the greatest joy, at seeing the citizens deprived of so valuable a privilege. From so favourable a beginning, they promised themselves all the success they could wish from the Duke's arbitration; but they soon found how rash they had been in their expectations; for two days after, he demanded the keys of the city, and quartered the troops he had brought with him amongst the citizens, suffering them to live at discretion for nine

months. He then required the town to pay him seventy-three thousand three hundred crowns, to re-imburse him for the expences he had incurred on their account.

The city immediately paid the greatest part of the sum, but did not find it make any change in their favour. *Albert* caused a part of the wall to be beaten down, and erected there a kind of citadel. The citizens strenuously defended the privileges which they had received at various times from the Emperor *Otho the Infant*, and from the Kings of *Denmark*; but having found all remonstrances vain, they had recourse to arms, and carried on a war with the Duke for many years; wherein he received some assistance from *Frederic the Second*, King of *Denmark*.

A. D.

1573

At length the contending parties came to a composition, which delivered the city of *Rosstock* from its greatest and most substantial grievance, while it only afforded a fruitless satisfaction to the Duke's pride; for the conditions of the peace were, That the citizens should ask his pardon in the most

most public and solemn manner, but that he should cause the citadel to be demolished.

John Albert survived this treaty but three years. By his wife *Sophia*, daughter of *Albert* Duke of *Prussia*, he had three sons, *John* the Fourth, who succeeded his father, and reigned jointly with *Ulric* his uncle; *Albert*, who died in his infancy; and *Sigismund Augustus*, who married *Clara Maria*, daughter to *Bugislaus* the Thirteenth, Duke of *Pomerania*, but died without issue during his father's life.

A. D.

1576

The year after *Albert's* death, *Ulric* Duke of *Mecklenburgh* had the satisfaction of receiving a visit from his son-in-law *Frederic* King of *Denmark*, who had then been married five years to *Sophia*, Princess of *Mecklenburgh*, his daughter.

A. D.

1577

The King had for a considerable time been at variance with the city of *Hamburg*, which proved a great impediment to the commerce of both states. So essential an inconvenience disposed each side to an agreement, but more especially the

city of *Hamburg*; for being a place of considerable trade, it was the greatest sufferer. The conduct of *John Albert* in regard to the town of *Rostock*, might reasonably have discouraged all others from confiding in a Prince of that family; but the chusing of arbitrators out of the house of *Mecklenburgh* had been a custom established for so many centuries, that one act of injustice could not obliterate the remembrance of the integrity which had ever recommended those Princes to that high trust, who were almost entitled by prescription, to claim the office of umpires of the north. The citizens of *Hamburg* applied to Duke *Ulric* to procure them a reconciliation with *Denmark*, which he effected the next year: nor was this the only affair of that nature wherein he was concerned; for nearly at the same time, in conjunction with the Elector of *Saxony*, and Landgrave of *Hesse*, he mediated a peace between the King of *Denmark*, and the Dukes of *Holstein*.

A. D.
1578

The King and the Duke of *Mecklenburgh* lived in that affectionate union, which
their

their near alliance gave reason to expect: and took every [opportunity of interchanging mutual good offices. The town of *Rostock* presuming on *Ulric's* little inclination for war, and his nephew's melancholy turn of mind, which rendered him incapable of giving great attention to state affairs, paid little regard to their Sovereigns; and sought every means of asserting an independency, which they believed they had now a good opportunity of establishing. As *Ulric* was not inclined to undertake any martial expedition, he complained to *Frederic*, in a visit he and the Dutchess made him, of the disobedience of that city, and the King very readily engaged to reduce the citizens to their duty, he imagining he could perform it without any trouble. Accordingly he seized all the ships belonging to *Rostock*, which were at that time in his ports, and forbade their trading in his dominions, till they brought him a certificate from the Duke of *Mecklenburgh*, to testify that he was perfectly satisfied with their conduct. He then sent some frigates to the mouth of
the

A. D.
1583

the mouth of the river *Warnow*, to prevent any ships from passing to or from that city.

This was an effectual means to distress it. *Rostock* could not subsist without commerce: a very short time therefore forced them to make the necessary submissions to the Duke, and to promise more obedience for the future. Thus they obtained the testimonial required, and their ships and freedom of commerce were restored.

A. D.
1588

A few years after this event, the Duke of *Mecklenburgh* had the grief of following his son-in-law the King of *Denmark* to his grave; for as the last proof of his regard, he attended his funeral obsequies.

The next year he assisted at the marriage of his grand-daughter *Ann*, Princess of *Denmark*, with *James* the Sixth, King of *Scotland*, who afterwards ascended the *English* throne, and of *Elizabeth* her sister with the Duke of *Brunswic*, whom he conducted to *Wolfenbuttle*.

John Duke of *Mecklenburgh* had for some years been afflicted with an extreme

treme dejection of spirits, which rendered life so very burdensome to him, that at length, not able to support his existence, nor to wait patiently for his release from the hand that had afflicted him, he unfortunately cut the thread of his wretched life in the 34th year of his age*. He had married *Sophia*, daughter of *Albert*, Duke of *Holstein*, by whom he had two sons, *Adolphus Frederic*, and *John Albert* the Second, who being then infants, *Charles* their uncle, Bishop of *Ratzeburgh*, was appointed their guardian. *John* had besides one daughter, named *Ann Sophia*, who became a Nun.

A. D.
1592

Ulric survived his nephew eleven years, and was seventy-five years old when he died; an age which proved a sufficient foundation for a surname, and occasioned his being called the *German Nestor*. His first wife was *Elizabeth*, daughter to *Frederic* the First, King of *Denmark*; his second, *Ann*, daughter to *Philip* the First, Duke of *Pomerania*. He had only one daughter, *Sophia*, married to *Frederic* the Second, King of *Denmark*.

A. D.
March 14,
1603

* *And. Geneal.*

*Adolphus
Frederic,
John Al-
bert.*

As *Ulric* had left no male issue, his brother's grandsons, *Adolphus Frederic*, and *John Albert*, succeeded to his dominions; which they again divided in the same manner as had been formerly done, before the whole became re-united under *Henry Pinguis*. The eldest had the dutchy of *Schuerin*, the younger that of *Gustrow*:

The early part of their administration, under the guardianship of their uncle, was peaceable and happy. When *John Albert* arrived at the age of twenty-one, he married *Margaret Elizabeth*, daughter to their deceased great-uncle, *Christopher*, Bishop of *Ratzeburgh*. This Princess lived but five years; and the Duke married for his second wife *Elizabeth*, daughter of *Maurice*, Landgrave of *Hesse*.

Adolphus Frederic, Duke of *Mecklenburgh Schuerin*, espoused in the year 1622, *Anna Maria*, daughter of *Enno*, Count of *East-Friezland*. The latter part of the reign of these Princes proved very different from the beginning: the connection which continued between *Denmark* and *Mecklenburgh* was far less fortunate to the

the reigning Dukes, than it had been to their uncle.

In the year 1546, a war broke out between the Princes of the league of *Smalcande*, and the Emperor *Charles* the Fifth. The motive on the Princes side was to secure to themselves the free exercise of their religion. The Elector of *Saxony*, and the Landgrave of *Hesse*, commanded the army of the league. Though their forces were very great, they could not resist the Imperial troops. The Elector of *Saxony* was taken and condemned to be beheaded; a sentence which was afterwards changed into that of imprisonment. The Landgrave entered into a negotiation with the Emperor, and while he depended on his Imperial Majesty's word for safety, was seized and thrown into prison.

These violent proceedings did not put an end to the troubles in *Germany*; but in 1555, peace was restored by the treaty of *Augsburgh*, wherein it was agreed, that no one should be molested for difference of opinion; and that the Protestants should retain

retain all the church lands they had already seized.

The empire continued free from any great disturbances on account of religion, till the reign of the Emperor *Matthias*; when much ill-will began to arise on each side. The Protestant Princes entered into an alliance, which they termed the Evangelic Union. The Roman Catholics engaged in what they called the Catholic League.

While things continued in this situation, *Ferdinand* the Second succeeded to the Imperial throne. Before the death of *Matthias*, he had been elected King of *Bobemia*; but having displeased the *Bobemians* as much as *Matthias*, they renounced his authority, and offered their throne to *Frederic*, Elector *Palatine*, a young Prince who had married *Elizabeth*, daughter to *James* the First King of *England*.

Frederic could not resist the charms of a crown: he accepted that which the *Bobemians* offered him, depending too much on the assistance of the Protestant states, and his other allies; for he was soon not only

only deprived of his imaginary kingdom, but likewise of the *Palatinate*; which the Emperor divided between the two Princes who had assisted him to conquer it, the Duke of *Bavaria* and the Elector of *Saxony*; and *Frederic* was put under the ban of the empire.

His misfortunes affected *Christiern* the Fourth, son and successor to *Frederic* the Second, King of *Denmark*, and grandson to *Ulric* Prince of *Mecklenburgh*, who he entered into a confederacy with the Kings of *Great Britain* and *Sweden*, the Elector of *Brandenburgh*, the Dukes of *Brunswic*, *Holstein*, *Lunenburgh*, *Mecklenburgh*, and *Pomerania*; whereby they engaged to endeavour the restoration of the Elector *Palatine* *.

A. D.
1621.

Christiern accordingly sent Ambassadors to *Vienna*, to propose the revocation of the decree against the Elector *Palatine*, and the other Protestant powers, who had likewise been put under the ban of the empire, contrary to the fundamental law, which declared, no Prince could have that

* *Histoire de Dannemare.*

sentence

sentence passed upon him, without the consent of the whole college of Princes; and urged that this was what alone could restore peace to that monarchy. The proposal was renewed more than once, but to no purpose; the Emperor paid little regard to the remonstrances of the King of *Denmark*, who represented to him, that as the Elector *Palatine* was ready to give any satisfaction his Imperial Majesty should require; he ought, however powerful, to fear the consequences of too vigorous a proceeding.

Not only those states which had given the Emperor cause of offence suffered by his armies; all *Lower Saxony* had been oppressed by them, although they had no way violated their fidelity: and when the Princes of that circle sent their complaints to *Tilly*, General of the Imperial forces, and represented that their lands were laid waste by his troops, and their houses pillaged, they received no other answer from him, than, That “ he did not imagine
“ they thought his soldiers were birds,
“ who could fly in the air, or that they
“ could

"could live without food." In this extremity, without hope of redress by negotiation, the Princes most aggrieved solicited *Christiern* to assist them in a more powerful manner, than was intended at their first engaging in the alliance, and chose him *Generallissimo* of their forces*; which he accepted under pretence of being obliged as joint Sovereign with the Dukes in *Holstein*, to undertake the defence of the country, since he was one of the principal members of the circle of *Lower Saxony*. The first year of the war passed without any decisive action, nor does it appear that the Dukes of *Mecklenburgh* were much engaged in it, since we find that *Adolphus Frederic* at that time married for his second wife; his first having been dead about two years and a half, *Mary Catharine*, daughter of *Julius Ernest*, Duke of *Brunswic*: and not many months after, *John Albert* took for his third wife *Eleonora Mary*, daughter to *Christiern*, Prince of *Anhalt Dernburgh* †.

A. D.
1625

A. D.
Sept. 15,
1625

May 7,
1626

* Ibid.

† *Anderson's Geneal.*

His *Danish* Majesty carefully endeavoured to avoid a battle, not thinking his army, which was in a great measure composed of new levies, fit to contend with the Imperialists, who had been long exercised in war under experienced and able Generals. He therefore encamped himself behind the strongest intrenchments, in the forming of which he laboured as industriously as the lowest soldier in his army: he endeavoured, by his example, to inure them to the hardships of the field; and hoped by little skirmishes to teach them the art of war: a conduct, which however prudent it may sound in theory, certainly in fact dispirited them greatly; it being scarcely possible to avoid exciting some fears in the minds of those, to whom we urge the necessity of keeping only on the defensive; since we thereby intimate a discouraging inferiority.

A. D.
1626

The next spring the King of *Denmark* divided his forces into three parts: with the one he penetrated into the bishopric of *Hildesheim*, where he took several places of strength; the other, commanded by the Duke of *Saxe-Weymar*, marched into
West-

Westphalia; and the third, conducted by Count *Mansfeld*, and composed in a great measure of troops furnished by the *Low Countries*, passed the *Elbe*, where they were to be joined by the Dukes of *Mecklenburgh*, in order to make an irruption into *Silesia*. The Count's army committed great ravages in every place where it passed, making little distinction between the territories of friends or enemies; a conduct which rendered their destined passage through *Mecklenburgh* not very acceptable to the Dukes: accordingly, instead of joining *Mansfeld's* troops with the nine thousand men levied in pursuance of the treaty, they employed them to garrison their principal cities; to prevent, if possible, the enormities they feared. This precaution, and the positive commands they had given, that the Count's army should every where be accommodated with forage and provisions, prevented their doing any considerable harm to the country.

After having taken by storm some small forts in his road, *Mansfeld* attacked the bridge of *Dassau*, but without success, and

the Imperialists commanded by *Walstein*, having come up to him there, a battle ensued, wherein *Walstein* proved victorious*.

Mansfeld retired into *Brandenburgh*, and immediately took the proper measures to recruit his army, which was soon effected by the troops with which the Dukes of *Mecklenburgh* provided him; and some battalions sent him by the King of *Denmark*. This monarch in the end of *July*, marched towards *Wolfembuttel*, with a design of succouring *Göttingen*, then besieged by *Tilly*, the Imperial General; but having stopped to take *Hotensleben*, *Sommersbury*, *Othervic*, *Schlagen* and *Steurwolde*, *Tilly* redoubled his attacks on *Göttingen*; and by the King's delay had time to reduce the place to such extremity, as obliged it to surrender. From hence he led his troops to *Northheim*: but the King of *Denmark* who had foreseen that his next attempt would be against that town, by forced marches, and that diligence for want of which *Göttingen* had been lost,

* *Puff. rer.. Sue.*

arrived

arrived there before him; and having strengthened the garrison, and furnished the place with ammunition and provisions, he proceeded to *Duderstadt*, and laid siege to that place*.

When *Tilly* found the King had deprived him of all hopes of taking *Northeim*, which it would have been too dangerous to besiege in the view of a superior army; he only fought to post himself advantageously within half a league of that city, till he should be joined by some troops left by *Walstein*, in the bishoprics of *Halberstadt* and *Magdeburgh* with which he expected to be speedily reinforced. His *Danish* Majesty gave him some interruption in his passage, but could not prevent his making himself master of the post, and therefore the King, finding he had missed of his aim, marched back to *Duderstadt*; but the Imperialists harrassed his army so much by the way, that thinking it more advisable to relinquish his intention, he retired from the town in the best order he was able. *Tilly* was much encouraged by this change

* Hist. de Dannemarc.

in the King's designs, and hoped to obtain an easy conquest over troops that on so slight an attack began to give ground: he followed them still more closely; and harassed them by more frequent skirmishes, till the darkness of the night obliged him to desist. The next day the King set fire to several villages, in hopes by this means to facilitate his retreat, but the enemy pressed so hard on his rear, that he was obliged to face about; and conducting his army in order of battle to a hill, gained the ascent before the Imperialists were all come up with him. *Tilly* encamped over against him: but the obscurity of the night favouring the King's design he continued his retreat, and at break of day *Tilly* again pursued him.

Between *Bockenew* and *Goslar*, near the castle of *Lutter*, the *Danes* having got some advantage of ground, with a hill on one side, and a marshy valley on the other, they determined to face the Imperialists once more. *Tilly*, when he perceived that the enemy ceased retreating, halted his advanced guard, till the rest of his troops had

had joined them. During this pause the two armies cannonaded each other with great fury; and about noon, both of them were ranged in order of battle.

The Imperialists marched first, and descended into the valley. The King had waited for this motion; and immediately advancing to meet them, began the attack. They charged each other very briskly; but the Imperialists fought with such courage, that the *Danes* were repulsed; their infantry being thrown into disorder, was totally defeated; and the greatest part of the officers were taken or slain*. The King fled with his cavalry; passed the *Elbe* before the Imperialists could overtake them, and retired into *Holstein*†.

The loss of so great a number of brave officers, of the first distinction, rendered this defeat the more destructive; the King had likewise the grief to hear soon after, that the Duke of *Brunswic*, and Count *Mansfeld* were dead, and that the troops of the last had almost all of them perished by sickness in *Hungary*, where the Count

* Ibid. † *De Heisse*.

had led them, after having penetrated through *Silefia*.

These various misfortunes, however, did not discourage *Christsiern*. He sought every means of raising a new army; and engaged the Protestant Princes, and more distant powers, who feared the ambition of the house of *Austria*, to grant him succours. As at that time it was become a custom to fight with the pen, as well as the sword, many treatises were dispersed to excite the *French*, *English*, and *Germans*, to endeavour jointly to depress the house of *Austria*. These elaborate performances procured some little assistance from *France* and *England*; and the King of *Denmark* formed another army of thirty-nine thousand men*.

A. D. 1627 The Imperialists had long been engaged in the siege of *Nienburgh*. *Christsiern* was extremely anxious to preserve this place, but could find no means of throwing into it any reinforcement, or supplies of provisions or amunition, till the ice afforded him an opportunity of effecting it, not-

* Hist. de *Danne*.

withstanding

withstanding *Tilly's* vigilance; who had not thought the same care necessary, in parts which a river seemed to render impassable, as in those where nature had made no defence. Not long after this, so many of his men were slain in a general assault given to the town, that he was obliged to desist from his enterprize. The *Danish* horse followed him in his retreat, and killed or took prisoners several entire regiments.

Although the conduct of the King of *Denmark* throughout this whole war, excites no high idea of his courage, it certainly gives reason to believe him possessed of a very superior quality; for, by a general order published throughout his army, he forbade, on pain of death, and confiscation of goods, both soldiers and officers, to molest any one employed in agriculture, or other labour; or to insult, or injure the peasants or inhabitants, wheresoever they might pass.

In the month of *July*, the King received the mortifying news of the reduction of *Northeim*;

theim, which had long resisted all the attacks of the Imperialists*.

The Count of *Fruftemberg*, had the conduct of the siege, which he carried on with great vigour. After he had invested it for a considerable time, he made a furious attack, but the besieged repulsed him, and killed a great number of his men. Made desperate by his ill success, he prepared to give a fresh assault. This design caused such apprehensions in the besieged, that they offered to surrender on composition, but the Count refused to grant their terms: whereupon they sent him word, That "since he would not allow them an "honourable capitulation, they were determined to defend themselves to the "last extremity; submitting the issue to "Divine Providence."

The besiegers inflamed by this opposition of their enemies, attacked the place with the greatest valour imaginable; but the garrison defended themselves with so much intrepidity, that the Count was again repulsed; and forced to retire into his in-

* *Puff. de rer. Sue.*

trenchments with considerable loss. In the evening he demanded a truce, to give him leisure to bury the dead; but the garrison returned for answer, That "since he " had refused to grant them a reasonable " capitulation, they were so far from being inclined to agree to a suspension of " arms, that they should endeavour to " take all possible advantage of their late " success." Accordingly in the night, they made a sally, wherein they slew a great number of the besiegers.

The Count of *Frußtemberg*, seeing the obstinate courage of the besieged, and hearing that within the walls, there was a large burying ground, where the garrison might defend themselves to great advantage, even after the town was taken; now thought proper to offer them honourable conditions, provided they would consent to surrender the place: and the garrison being in want of provisions; and destitute of all hope of receiving any supplies, accepted the proposals, and after delivering up the town, marched out with all the honours of
of

of war; the Imperialists conducting them to *Wolfenbuttle**.

The King of *Denmark*'s army was at that time superior to *Tilly*'s; but though they were encamped very near each other, yet the King could not be prevailed with to give him battle; and the Dukes of *Mecklenburgh*, had the mortification of seeing themselves under the ban of the empire, in consequence of their having joined the *Danish* Monarch; their dominions laid waste; and all the places of any consequence in possession of the Imperialists, without any prospect of being able to relieve themselves. The King's inaction dispirited his troops: the garrisons which he had placed in the towns belonging to his allies, had little encouragement to make any opposition, since they saw no chance of being relieved in time; accordingly they retired; and seldom gave *Tilly* the trouble of a siege; while *Christiern*'s chief employment was the building of forts, in advantageous places; which his soldiers wanted the courage to defend; and

* *Histoire de Dannemarck.*

by falling afterwards into the enemies hands proved destructive to those who had raised them.

The Imperialists pursued their conquests, and with great rapidity drove the *Danes* out of *Lower Saxony*. The King retired, in proportion as *Tilly* advanced, who following him very closely, increased the fears of the *Danes*, which first arose from their Kings, continual readiness to retreat. To enumerate all the places from whence the Imperialists expelled them, would be tedious: it sufficeth to say, that they seized the whole dutchy of *Mecklenburgh*, while the Dukes, whose forces were by no means equal to such an enemy, received rather detriment than succour from their allies.

The Imperialists at length pursued the *Danes* even into *Holstein*,* and obliged them, in order to save that country from so successful an enemy, to lay great part of it under water, which by means of sluices was easily performed: but notwithstanding they had taken so disagreeable a

* *Puff. de rer. Sue.*

method of stopping their progress, the Imperialists soon got possession of all the places of any consequence in *Holstein*, except *Gluckstad*, and *Rensburg*; which the King finding himself unable to defend, set on fire, and threw his cannon into the sea, that they might not fall into the hands of the enemy*. It then remained impossible to prevent the victorious army from penetrating into *Jutland*, which submitted without much resistance.

The melancholy situation of the affairs of the allies, occasioned the defection of many. The estates of the dutchy of *Brunswick* renounced their alliance, and implored the Emperor's mercy. The Elector of *Brandenburg* published an edict, commanding such of his subjects as had entered into the service of the King of *Denmark* to return home, on pain of confiscation of goods, and the most exemplary punishments; and the Margrave of *Baden-Dourlach* made a private peace with the Emperor.

* *Histoire de Dannemarck.*

A. D.
1628

The kingdom of *Denmark* grew much discontented with the turn of affairs; and the assembly of the states sent to his Imperial Majesty requesting him to assume more pacific inclinations, and to appoint Commissioners to treat of peace at any place he should think proper; engaging on their parts, to prevail with their King to comply with any reasonable conditions. But *Cbriſtiern*, either having no great expectation of success from this step, or not thinking it advisable to enter into a treaty in a way so little likely to procure tolerable terms, equipped a fleet, and levied a fresh army, with which he renewed hostilities the next spring. He took the isle of *Femer*, with some other places of small importance; and his fleet destroyed a squadron of eighteen ships, belonging to the Imperialists.

The King, whose fleet consisted of forty-seven ships of war, set sail to *Kiel*, and formed the siege of it both by sea and land; but the garrison repelled his attacks with so much courage and success, that he judged the enterprize too difficult, and feared

feared he should lose more men in the attempt, than the conquests of it deserved: He therefore raised the siege, and marched to *Stade*; with an intention to throw some supplies into that town, which was invested by the Imperialists: but when he approached the place, he found the besieged too well intrenched to leave him any hope of forcing their lines, and all avenues to the city were so well guarded, that he could not convey any succours into it; he therefore retired; but took in his way a convoy of fourteen vessels, laden with provisions for the Imperial armies in *Holstein*, and *Jutland* *.

Stade was defended by an *English* garrison under the command of Colonel *Morgan*; they were now reduced to extremity, and when by the King of *Denmark*'s departure, they saw themselves deprived of all hope of succour, they had no other part to take but to surrender: they obtained an honourable capitulation; marched out with colours flying, and all warlike honours, and were received without the

* *Ibid.*

town by Count *Tilly*, who testified his admiration of the courage and conduct they had shewn during the siege; and after the two commanders had expressed the highest mutual esteem for each other, Colonel *Morgan* marched towards *Bremen*.

Tilly led his army to *Krembe*; which he invested, but the *Danes* made so obstinate a defence, and harrassed him so much by their frequent sallies, that he quitted the place. The Imperialists afterwards renewed the siege, and became masters of it.

Each side grew weary of a war which was by no means decisive; and were equally disposed to consent to a treaty. The four Catholic Electors united their endeavours to procure a pacification; and prevailed with the Emperor to send Ambassadors to *Lubec*, to treat of the means of restoring peace to the empire. The Electors of *Saxony* and *Brandenburgh*, and the King of *Denmark* did the same.

The conditions were not easily settled, each Prince required terms that the other would not grant. The King of *Denmark*

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was very desirous of having the Dukes of *Mecklenburgh* restored to their dominions; but the Emperor, who wished to have more absolute authority over the states that lay beyond the *Elbe*, and considered them as an inlet into the kingdoms of *Denmark* and *Sweden*, absolutely refused to make any concession in their favour; and a peace was at last concluded, the *German* Princes being in no wise concerned in it*.

A. D.
1629

Though the *Danish* monarch did not think proper to continue a destructive war for the sake of the Dukes of *Mecklenburgh*, yet he endeavoured by a manifesto to justify their conduct, and inserted in it some remonstrances to his Imperial Majesty in their favour; but his arguments were not more availing than his arms; and it is not strange that the Emperor did not comply with the request of a Prince who had given him a convincing proof that he would not support his remonstrances by any measures more effectual.

When the Emperor had detached so

* Ibid.

pow-

powerful an ally from the Protestant Princes, he began by moderate degrees to mortify and humble them, sensible that they were not in a condition to defend their rights. As they perceived a premeditated intention in his Imperial Majesty to ruin them gradually, they applied to *Gustavus Adolphus*, King of *Sweden*, who had already given evident proofs of his heroic disposition, and solicited his protection.

Gustavus was sincerely concerned for the depressed state of the Protestant religion in *Germany*; and as a politic Prince, was disturbed to see the Emperor extend his power to the very shores of the *Baltic*, by the seizure of the dutchy of *Mecklenburgh*, and part of *Pomerania*. The ambition of the house of *Austria* was too manifest, not to give the King reason to apprehend that the Emperor aimed at extending his empire still farther; and it was judged most prudent, not to wait till *Sweden* was attacked; but to seize the favourable conjuncture, while some of the Protestant Princes were still capable of assist-

ing him in his endeavours to secure them the free exercise of their religion, and of their political rights.

In the war between *Gustavus*, and *Sigismund* King of *Poland*, for the crown of *Sweden*, to which the latter laid claim, the Emperor had sent considerable succours to *Sigismund*, and refused to acknowledge *Gustavus* as King*. These reasons, with some others of the like kind, concurred to incline *Gustavus* to undertake the protection of the *German* Princes.

Walstein, whose ambition was equal to his master's, having taken *Rostock*, *Wisnar*, and several other maritime towns, obtained a patent, constituting him Admiral of the *Baltic*, a new and unheard of title†. *Straelsund* was the only considerable city on that coast which remained unsubdued; to this therefore he laid siege, to procure to himself a clear passage into *Denmark*. *Christiern* and *Gustavus* were both desirous to succour this place, as the defence of it was of great consequence to either, but the King of *Sweden* prevailed

* *Cramero* Com. Hist. Sue. † *Puff.* de rer. Sue.
with

with his *Danish* Majesty to leave this affair to him; which he performed so successfully, that *Wallstein* was obliged to raise the siege.

This event passed before the Plenipotentiaries of the Emperor and King of *Denmark*, had entirely settled the articles of peace. *Gustavus* thought proper to send an Ambassador to *Lubec*, with orders to solicit the restoration of the Dukes of *Mecklenburgh*; whom as relations and neighbours, he had taken particularly under his protection. But the Emperor still refused to acknowledge him as King of *Sweden*, and great insults were offered to his Ambassadors.

The next year *Gustavus* published a manifesto, explaining his reasons for commencing a war against the house of *Austria*; among which, the Emperor's seizing the dominions of the Dukes of *Mecklenburgh*; assisting the King of *Poland* in his pretensions on the crown of *Sweden*; his declaring *Gustavus* an enemy to the empire; his having confiscated several *Swedish* ships, together with his endeavours to render himself

A. D.
1630

himself master of the *Baltic*, were the principal articles.

At this time *Germany* was in great confusion, arising from the edict of restitution published by the Emperor, which required every member of the empire to restore all the church lands seized since the treaty of *Passaw*; but although this very severely affected even several Catholic Princes, who had by inheritance or other means obtained many of those lands, yet their fear of the house of *Austria* was so great, that they would not venture to have recourse to arms in defence of what they esteemed a just, as well as a considerable part of their possessions.

The Diet was likewise then sitting at *Ratisbon*; and great representations were made to the Emperor against *Walstein*, on whom he had conferred the dukedoms of *Fridland*, and *Mecklenburgh*, besides other considerable grants. When he was first constituted Duke of *Mecklenburgh*, he confirmed to the nobles all the privileges they claimed, and granted every favour they asked; desirous to ingratiate himself with
them,

them, and secure their obedience, at a time when contention would have been inconvenient; trusting that his power, when fully established, would enable him to recover any prerogatives which he might for a short space resign. But moderation was in no sense his characteristic; therefore the more he affected the appearance of it, the more he became suspected. Almost every Prince in the empire was his enemy: some envied him as a rival in fame, others as an upstart in power; his great influence with the Emperor caused him to be hated by all who wished to gain that Prince's ear; and his cruelty and excessive extortion in every province where he happened to be stationed, or even to pass thro', plundering alike friends and enemies, excited general detestation. He affected a degree of pomp and state superior to what his master assumed; he was on public occasions attended by six hundred horsemen, richly cloathed; and in every other particular appeared equally splendid*.

* *De Barre.*

The complaints against him were so universal, that his Imperial Majesty at length thought it necessary to give some satisfaction to his subjects, and not offend them too highly, when a formidable enemy had just entered the country: having therefore, by private and friendly endeavours, attempted to reconcile him to the part he was obliged to act, he commanded him to resign the investiture of the duchy of *Mecklenburgh*; under pretence of not giving umbrage to his *Swedish* Majesty, or the Electoral college; and in a short time dismissed him from his command in the army.

Soon after *Gustavus* had published his manifesto, he set sail with a good fleet, and a well disciplined army on board, and landed in the isle of *Usedom*; which having subdued, he invested *Wolgast*; but leaving General *Bannier* to prosecute the siege, he proceeded to *Wollin*, an island eastward of *Usedom*. From thence he sailed to *Stettin**, a town situated on the *Oder*, formerly the residence of the

* *Puff.*

Dukes of *Pomerania*, and the capital of the inner dutchy. *Bogislaus* was then in the town, and sent the Governor to treat with *Gustavus*, but that Monarch insisting much on entering into negotiation with none but his master, the Duke himself was obliged to appear; and was carried in a sedan chair to meet the King in an open field.

His Majesty told him he came to restore peace to the empire; and that his army was not composed of either russians or banditti, like those soldiers with whom *Pomerania* had been infested. The Duke endeavoured to obtain leave to continue neuter; fearing the resentment of the Imperialists, whose forces were far superior to those of *Gustavus*; but this was a request he could scarcely expect to have granted; and at his return into the town he was attended by a body of troops, sufficient to secure the gate. The garrison instead of making resistance, enlisted into the King's service; who caused the city to be well fortified, and left in it a garrison of *Swedes*, to whom he assigned the government

vernment of the military concerns of the town, leaving only a nominal Sovereignty to the Duke, who had long been little better than a state prisoner to the Emperor.

Gustavus marched from hence to *Wolgast*, which he reduced to surrender; and having thereby opened himself a passage into the Dutchy of *Mecklenburgh*, he led his army towards that country; for he was desirous of reinstating his kinsmen in their possessions as soon as possible; and likewise of securing to himself the shore of the *Baltic*, so necessary towards keeping open the communication with *Sweden*.

The Dukes of *Mecklenburgh* after the loss of their dominions had retired to *Lubeck*, that they might be near at hand to seize any opportunity which should offer itself in their favour; and also to avoid giving farther umbrage to the Emperor, by appearing to solicit personally the assistance of any foreign Prince. In that city they lived as exiles, supporting their ill fortune with such dignity and spirit, as rendered their expulsion from their dutchy rather

ther a proof of their merit, than a real disgrace. To elude the odium of bringing a foreign enemy into the empire, they endeavoured by submissions to obtain the the Emperor's pardon, and solicited their restoration in the most humble manner: but when they found their endeavours were so far from prevailing, that on the contrary, they were even treated as the greatest criminals, they repaired to the King of *Sweden*; and sought from his generosity, and partly from his interest, what they could not obtain from the Emperor's justice.

The Imperial army in *Mecklenburgh* and *Pomerania*, was commanded by *Torguato di Conti*, an *Italian*. This General, not daring to encounter *Gustavus* in a pitched battle, determined if possible, to circumvent him by treachery: he therefore prevailed on one of his officers, named *Quinti Aligheri*, to go over under a pretended desertion to *Gustavus*, who received him into no small degree of favour.

Some time after, the King chusing to go in person and view the lines of *Torguato's* camp,

camp, took with him a party of only seventy horse, among whom was *Aligberi*. This officer contrived to leave his Majesty on the road, and repaired with the utmost speed to the Imperial army, where he gave full information of the intended expedition. *Torguato* immediately transferred to him the command of five hundred *Neapolitan* cuirassiers. *Aligberi* disposed them in ambuscade in a narrow pass, where *Gustavus* could have no chance to escape their attack, and set upon him in his return. Though the inequallity of numbers was so great, as might have disconcerted a man of less courage, it served only to inspirit the *Swedish* monarch: he defended himself at the head of his little party with astonishing bravery; and after his horse was slain, fought a considerable time on foot; till surrounded by his enemies he was taken prisoner, though unknown to those who had siezed him. His soldiers forgetting their own danger, while they beheld that to which their King was exposed, attacked with such desperate valour the men into whose hands he had fallen, that

that they dispersed them, recovered their King, and thereby gave him the power of continuing his defence.

This fight lasted so long that an officer whom *Gustavus* had posted at the head of a detachment, to secure his retreat, growing uneasy at not seeing him return, dispatched a troop of horse full speed, to examine into the occasion of it. He fortunately came soon enough to find the King, and a few of his men alive, the greatest part being slain.

He soon routed the *Neapolitans*, and had the honour of rescuing his Sovereign, who shewed more grief for the loss of his soldiers, than joy for his own escape, and arraigned himself very severely, for having by his rashness occasioned the death of men, who had given such evident proofs of the most heroic valour*.

Gustavus proceeded in his march : surprised *Bart*, and took by storm *Damgarten*, and *Ribnitz* : from thence he entered into *Mecklenburgh*; where he knew his presence was ardently wished, for that people

* *Hart's, Gustavus Adolphus.*

impatiently supported the Imperial yoke, the continual exactions of the General, and the oppressions of the garrisons ; and eagerly longed for the restoration of their antient Sovereigns. As soon as *Gustavus* entered the dutchy he invited all the country by proclamations to shake off the slavery which they endured, and to acknowledge once their former Princes.

As *Rostock* was a very strong and considerable city, and lay within four miles of the *Baltic*, it was an object for the King of *Sweden*, who finding the garrison too numerous to admit of a siege, blockaded it, and left it to the care of *Bannier*, while he himself marched into *Uterior Pomerania*, and took the city of *Colbergen*. He then returned into *Mecklenburgh*, defying the severities of winter, which were that year extremely rigorous, and made himself master of *Griffenhagen* and *Gortz*.

Decem-
ber.

A. D. 1631 The Dukes of *Mecklenburgh* had the satisfaction of seeing great progress made in the reduction of their dominions, and found the hearts of their subjects still loyal, though they had been reduced to

to submit to a superior power. Some of them ventured to engage in their Prince's cause, among whom none were more distinguished than *Melk*, a native of *Mecklenburgh*, and originally a common foldier; but who by his extraordinary valour and talents, raised himself to an uncommon degree of consideration. He levied a small body of troops, consisting of three hundred foot and thirty-six horse with which he determined to attack *Malchin*, a strong fort, situated on the banks of the river *Pene*, garrisoned by two companies of dragoons.

Melk, in order to make a more formidable appearance, collected a great number of peasants, and giving each of them two lighted matches, dispersed them about in small parties; especially along the grand avenue, over a morass that led to the town. About four o'Clock in the morning he summoned the garrison, in the name of the King of *Sweden*, to capitulate; declaring, that if they hesitated a single moment, no quarter should be allowed them.

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The Commandant deceived by the appearance of numbers, and intimidated by so peremptory a summons, did not take time to examine into the strength of the assailants, but surrendered directly.

Melk not only by this means got possession of a strong fort, but obtained the two companies of dragoons; for when they found to how small a force they had submitted, they rather chose to enter into the *Swedish* service, than to run the hazard of being called to an account for their credulity*.

The Dukes put themselves at the head of a little army of faithful subjects, with which they reduced many places, and partly by their courage and conduct, and partly by their humanity and the affection the people bore them, conquered the greatest part of the dutchy. While they were thus employed, the King was taking measures to establish a general communication between *Mecklenburgh*, and the adjacent countries. He laid siege to *Damin*, a place of great importance, situated on the

* Ibid.

banks of the *Pene* between *Mecklenburgh* and *Pomerania*. The castle was at some distance from the town, and communicated with it only by a causeway, in the middle of which a strong fortification was erected. This *Gustavus* took by storm, on the night of his arrival, and soon after, made himself master of the castle, which was defended by seven companies of infantry, who enlisted into the *Swedish* service.

The garrison in the town was commanded by Duke *Savelli*, who made some desperate sallies during three days, but on the fourth offered to capitulate*, and obtained honourable conditions, after *Gustavus* had obliged him and his men to give a promise in writing, not to serve against the *Swedes*, or their allies, for three months.

The King's next expedition was against *Franckfort* on the *Oder*, which he besieged, and, in a very short time, took by storm: the town was first entered by a company of *Scots*, of whom he had many in his

* *Puff.*

army, entertaining a particular esteem for the foldiers of that nation, whom he ranked among his bravest troops. Above 1700 Imperialists were slain in the reduction of this city, but *Gustavus* endeavoured to the utmost of his power, to secure the citizens from insult, and to force his soldiers to desist from plundering. He placed a garrison in the town; the command whereof he gave to *Lesly*, a *Scotch* officer.

Gustavus soon after attacked *Landberg*, which he reduced to capitulate, though the number of the garrison much exceeded that of the assailants.

Count *Tilly* was at this time employed in the siege of *Magdeburgh*, a place of such great importance, that *Gustavus* earnestly wished to relieve it; but for this purpose it was necessary to be well assured of a safe passage, and retreat through *Brandenburgh*, and of the assistance of the Elector of *Saxony*. To procure the first, he forced the Elector of *Brandenburgh* to a conference, having marched at the head of a body of troops to *Berlin*, accompanied

nied by *Adolphus* Duke of *Mecklenburgh*: anxious for the success of the King's arms, he used his utmost endeavours to persuade the Elector to adhere strongly to *Gustavus*; but though that Monarch's presence disposed the Elector to give him strong assurances of his attachment, and in reality to enter into his alliance, yet he was too irresolute to be an useful friend. The Elector of *Saxony* could not be induced to join *Gustavus*, or to do more than promise him a free passage for such provisions as he should think proper to send to *Magdeburgh*: for the fear of the house of *Austria* was so universal, that even the Princes who had most solicited the King's assistance, had not courage to join him when he entered *Germany* in their defence, and in pursuance of their invitation.

The Elector of *Saxony* had assembled together all the Protestant Princes, and friends to the King of *Sweden*. They met in great numbers at *Leipsic*; but after many debates, the affair ended in sending remonstrances to the Emperor, complaining of the treatment they had received from

his troops, and notifying a resolution of raising an army of forty thousand men; but not one of them would engage in a league with *Gustavus*. Thus was that great Prince deprived of the power of relieving *Magdeburgh*, which was at last taken by storm, and entirely destroyed.

May 10. Near forty thousand inhabitants are said to have perished either by the sword, or fire; for almost the whole town was burnt to ashes*. The cruelties committed there will for ever excite the horror of all ages, and are chiefly attributed to the barbarity of *Tilly*, who, when some of his officers besought him to put a stop to such unheard of cruelties as were then exercised, only answered, "The town must bleed; it has not yet offered sufficient expiation. Let the soldiers persist" another hour, "and then we will reconsider the matter." A few days after, the camp of the Imperialists took fire, wherein was consumed the most part of the very great booty gained by the soldiers at the sack-
ing of *Magdeburgh*.

* Ibid. *Puff.* rer. *Sue.*

When *Gustavus*'s attention was no longer engaged by that unfortunate city, the hopes of relieving which had engrossed all his thoughts; he made himself master of *Gripeswald*, the only town in *Pomerania* which then remained to be conquered. From thence he marched into *Mecklenburgh*, which the Dukes had entirely reduced, except *Rostoc*, *Wismar*, and *Dæmits*. As soon as the King arrived at *Gustrow*, he ordered the necessary preparations for the second inauguration of the two Dukes into their recovered dominions, which was conducted with great pomp.

The clergy, the senators, and the nobility, the latter amounting to eight hundred, began the procession; then succeeded the senior Duke, attended by thirty-six halberdiers: his Highness was that day dressed in black, appearing rather as a mourner for the sufferings of his country, than as a triumphant conqueror; thirty-six trumpeters followed in different liveries. The King of *Sweden* came next on horseback, dressed in green, with a plume of blue and white feathers

on his hat, attended by twenty-four running footmen, and eighteen soldiers on horseback. The younger Duke of *Mecklenburgh* followed, accompanied by *Ulric* Prince of *Denmark*, third son to *Cbristiern* the Fourth; the Dukes of *Pomerania*, and *Courland*; and the Princes and Princeesses of the house of *Mecklenburgh*; the ladies of quality and fashion closed the procession in one hundred and thirty coaches, guarded by a body of one thousand eight hundred horsemen, all well mounted and well attired.

This cavalcade marched first to the great church, where divine service was performed, and a sermon preached on the following text; " They that sow in tears, " shall reap in joy," *Psaln* cxxvi. v. 5. From thence they went to the town-hall, and ranged themselves in order. The great Chancellor *Oxenstiern* then appeared, and exhorted the people to renounce *Walstein*, and re-acknowledge their lawful Sovereigns; a request to which they signified their compliance, by repeated shouts and acclamations; medals were thrown to
the

the populace, on which were engraven the heads of the two reigning Princes on one side, and on the other a Pelican feeding its young with streams of blood issuing from its breast. Lest this event might in time be forgotten, *Gustavus* commanded that all parents, should fully instruct their children in the nature of this Restoration, and teach them to remember, with the warmest gratitude to the Almighty, the re-establishment of their lawful Sovereigns, of their religion, and of their liberty*.

The loss of the city of *Magdeburgh* had alarmed the Protestant Princes, and disposed them to act with less timidity. Some whom fear of either party had kept in suspense between both, began to declare more openly for the defender of their religion and liberties.

The Landgrave of *Hesse*, put himself under the King of *Sweden's* protection, who gave him hopes of procuring a restitution of some places taken from him by the Emperor during the *Bobemian* war: the Landgrave engaging on his side, to

* *Hart's Gustavus Adolphus.*

assist *Gustavus* with troops and provisions, and to receive garrisons into such cities, as the King of *Sweden* should demand, on promise of their being restored when they ceased to be necessary for the prosecution of the war.

The Elector of *Saxony*, exasperated by the insolent behaviour of the Imperialists, made the same kind of treaty with *Gustavus*; and joined him with his forces at *Wittemburg*.

The Elector, unwilling to have his dominions continue the seat of war, both armies being at that time in it, prevailed with *Gustavus* to give the Imperialists battle near *Leipfic*. *Tilly* was little inclined to run the hazard, till some expected reinforcements should arrive; but his opinion was overborne by that of younger Generals, and he was obliged to meet *Gustavus* in the field.

We shall not attempt to describe this battle, as it is not our purpose to write a circumstantial history of *Germany*; but shall only relate succinctly the course of affairs, to make the history of the Dukes of
Meck-

Mecklenburgh the more intelligible, which could not without a series of other events, be at all understood. This will oblige us to mention many, actions in which they were not concerned, but we shall relate them with all possible brevity. It sufficeth therefore to say, that although the *Saxons* who had been so eager to engage, were routed on the first onset, yet the *Swedes* obtained a compleat victory, and *Tilly* who defended himself to the last with the most obstinate bravery, was desperately wounded*.

Leipfic immediately surrendered to *Gustavus*, who prosecuting his victories with amazing rapidity, in four months extended his conquests from the *Baltic*, to the frontiers of *Lorrain* and *Switzerland*. The Elector of *Saxony* subdued *Lusace*; and penetrating into *Bohemia*, took the city of *Prague*. He might have made still farther progress, had he not suffered his soldiers to be debauched by prosperity, who soon became immersed in the most dissolute excesses.

* Ibid.

The Dukes of *Mecklenburgh* had maintained the blockade of *Rostoc*, almost from the time *Gustavus* first commenced it. The Governor made a very brave defence, and prolonged the siege to an uncommon length: but the battle of *Leipsic* having deprived the citizens and garrison of all hopes of relief, they began to mutiny, and it was not without difficulty that the Commander pacified them long enough, to give him an opportunity of obtaining honourable conditions; which it is probable would not have been granted, had the discontent of his men been well known.

As soon as the Dukes had settled the confused state of the city, and restored the ancient form of government, they marched into *Lower Saxony*; having raised as large a body of forces, as the exhausted state of their dominions would permit; and the King sent a strong detachment to join them. They soon reduced that country under the power of *Gustavus*; and all the Protestant Princes, and free towns took courage to enter into confederacy with him.

Count

Count *Tilly* in a short time assembled an army almost double in number to that which *Gustavus* commanded *; but was so much dispirited by the loss of the battle of *Leipfic*, that he sat a quiet spectator of the King's daily conquests, not disposed to venture a second engagement. This timid conduct induced the Emperor to recall *Walstein*; he intreated him to sacrifice private resentment to public utility, and offered him the command in chief of the Imperial forces, with absolute power, intirely independant of the Councils of *Vien-na* †; an offer that ambitious and rapacious officer was little disposed to reject; accordingly he was declared Generalissimo.

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Gustavus still continuing his progress; passed the *Danube*; and having reached the frontiers of *Bavaria*, found the passage of the river *Lech* defended by *Tilly*. That General had posted himself on the banks, in so advantageous a manner, as rendered an attack very hazardous; but *Gustavus* determined to attempt it; and

* Ibid.

† *Sieur de Heisse*.

passing

passing his army over a temporary bridge of his own constructing, obliged the Count to retire in the night; who in this retreat received a wound, of which he died in a few days.

Augsburg immediately surrendered to the victorious *Swedes*: The King restored the exercise of the Protestant religion, and exacted on oath of allegiance from the magistrates. This step had a bad effect on his allies, who feared from hence, that his views were more interested, and more extensive, than he acknowledged. The King then laid siege to *Ingoldstadt*; but it was so bravely defended by the son of Count *Tilly*, that his Majesty thought proper to abandon that enterprise. He however took *Munich*, and many other places of strength in *Bavaria*. Some of his officers would have persuaded him to revenge on *Munich*, the cruelties which *Tilly* had perpetrated at *Magdeburgh*, but he replied: "Far be it
" from us, to imitate the barbarity of our
" ancestors the *Goths*, who have rendered
" their memories detestable, by spilling
" the blood of the defenceless, and de-
" stroying

* "stroying the noblest works of art." He entered the place without the least disorder; and received three hundred thousand rix dollars, as a ransom for the town, in which he found a hundred and forty pieces of cannon, which he sent to *Augsburg* *.

During these transactions, *Walstein* recovered *Prague*, and the rest of *Bohemia*. *Papenheim*, another Imperial General, re-reduced part of *Saxony*. *Walstein* contrary to his inclination (having a personal hatred to that Prince) was obliged to join the Duke of *Bavaria*, and march against *Gustavus*; but refused to give him battle. The King who had received some reinforcements, attacked him in his intrenchments; but after considerable loss, found it necessary to retreat. Being in some disorder, and seeing no General officer near, the King addressed himself to *Hepburn*, an old experienced *Scots* Colonel, who upon some disgust had quitted his service, and was then among the *German* troops: he besought him to lay aside his resentment, and exert himself for the safety of so many

* Ibid.

brave men. *Hepburn* replied, that on such an occasion only, would he serve so ungrateful a Prince, then rushing into the very heat of the battle, he made the King's will known to the army; and conducted the retreat with the most consummate prudence: after this action, in opposition to all the King's persuasions and promises, he retired into his own country*. During this attack, his *Swedish* Majesty was brought into much danger, part of his boot being carried away by a cannon ball.

Walstein having marched into *Saxony*, the King, at the request of that Elector, determined to leave *Franconia*, where he then was, and give him battle. Accordingly at *Lutzen* within two leagues of *Leip-fic*, the armies engaged. The *Swedes* were at first repulsed; whereupon, the King alighting, put himself at the head of his troops, and addressing them with some warmth; " If, said he, after having
 " forced your passage over so many rivers,
 " scaled so many walls, and reduced so
 " many strong fortresses, you have not

Novem-
ber 15.

* *Puff. de rer. Sue.*

" courage

“ courage to defend me, at least assume
“ resolution enough to wait and see me
“ fall.” His men touched with this reproach, unanimously exclaimed, that they had no fears but for his person; and returned to the charge so vigorously, that they forced the intrenchments of *Walstein's* camp.

After this *Gustavus* went to reconnoitre another post, attended only by two Aid de Camps; when being surrounded by a party of cuirassiers, this brave Prince was unfortunately slain. Some attributed this fatal stroke to *Francis Albert*, Duke of *Saxe-Lawenburgh*, who is supposed to have entered into his alliance, only for an opportunity of perpetrating this detestable assassination; a surmise which received strength from his abandoning the *Swedes* and declaring for the Emperor, immediately after the engagement*.

Thus perished one of the greatest and best Generals the world ever saw. If he was nor entirely free from ambition, yet the Interests of religion were so blended

* Ibid.

with it as might in a great measure, conceal it from himself. It is seldom that the human heart loses so fair an opportunity of deceiving itself. It is certain that he was sincerely pious: he never omitted regular and public acts of devotion; neither began any engagement till he had joined with his army in prayers for success; or gained any victory, for which he did not in the same manner, return his grateful acknowledgements to the Supreme Being. His generosity and humanity were felt by his greatest enemies, as well as the meanest of his soldiers; whose labours he alleviated by the most endearing affability; setting before them an amiable example of what they themselves ought to be.

After the death of *Gustavus*, the Duke of *Saxe-Weymar* sustained the fight with invincible courage. *Papenheim* received a mortal wound; and the Imperialists suffered so much in the battle, that they retreated under favour of the night, with the utmost precipitation. The next day, after a diligent search, the King's body was found stripped and mangled. One
of

of his attendants lay dead by his side; the other, just expiring, had scarcely strength enough left to relate the manner of his Prince's death *. His body was conveyed with great pomp to *Stockholm*.

The Elector *Palatine*, who had for some time, attended *Gustavus*, all his hopes of being re-instated in his dominions, depending on that Monarch, was then confined with sickness at *Mentz*. His distemper was so much aggravated by the account of the death of his Protector, that he survived him only a few days.

The Emperor conceived hopes from this great event, that he should soon recover all the losses he had sustained; but *Bernard* Duke of *Saxe-Weymar* shewed him, that the spirit of *Gustavus* still survived; and before the end of the year, drove the Imperialists out of *Saxony*.

Notwithstanding this success, the Protestant Princes were greatly dispirited by the death of the King of *Sweden*. The Duke of *Saxony* absolutely refused to con-

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* *Sieur de Heisse.*

Electors of *Brandenburgh*, though less explicit, became equally useless to the party. In this exigence Chancellor *Oxenstiern*, to whom the chief direction of the *Swedish* affairs was committed, assembled the Protestant Princes at *Hailbron*, and engaged, though with great difficulty, all of them except the two above-named, to renew their alliance. *France* and *Denmark* did the same, though neither of them were very sincere friends; the former wishing the *Swedes* only so far successful as corresponded with some secret designs of their own, and the latter were too jealous of the glory the *Swedes* had already acquired to give them much assistance towards obtaining fresh laurels.

In the assembly at *Hailbron*, *Oxenstiern* declared the young Elector *Palatine* successor to his father, and lawful inheritor of the *Palatinate*; and on his own authority re-instated, but could not, in fact, re-establish him in his principality. He hoped by this step to engage *England*, *Holland*, *Brandenburgh*, and the Electoral Family to unite with the *Swedes*, as that Prince

Prince was so manifestly interested in their success. About this time, the Duke of *Feria* arrived in *Germany*, with thirty thousand *Italian* auxiliaries sent by *Spain*; but *Walstein*, through envy of this new General, contrived to render his army useless, and contributed more than the enemy, though Marshal *Horn* gave him some considerable checks to ruin his army, which so much afflicted the Duke, that he is said to have died of vexation.

The *Swedish* affairs, directed by *Oxenstiern*, and carried into execution, by *Bernard* Duke of *Saxe-Weymar*, the Duke of *Lunenburgh*, *Bannier*, *Horn*, and Count *Thurn*, improved, rather than declined: but the *German* Princes grew weary of a war, wherein their dominions were considerable sufferers; for even the armies of their friends became very destructive; since, as they could not be always regularly paid, it was next to impossible to keep them in exact discipline. The *Swedes* were not much less dissatisfied with a war, which had deprived them of a King whom they loved almost to idolatry; but *Oxen-*

stiern was too good a politician, not to see the necessity of continuing it in its full vigour, till he could obtain a safe and honourable peace: for this purpose he exerted his whole address, in several different assemblies of the Princes, in order to retain them in their former resolutions.

A. D. They received some encouragement
 1634 from *Walstein's* falling a second time into disgrace: that General's ambition led him to aim at the crown of *Bobemia*; and when he found that his enemies had ruined him in the Emperor's opinion, he treated with the Protestants; offering to join them if they would promise their assistance to seat him on the *Bobemian* throne. The Princes suspected him of a design to betray them, and therefore paid little regard to his proposals; but the court of *Vienna* believed him in earnest, and determined his ruin. He then engaged a party of officers to swear to defend him against every power, and took some other steps which rendered him still more obnoxious to the Imperial court. To prove his innocence by a seeming carelessness of his person, he

he went to *Egra*, thinking he might safely depend on the garrison, but was there assassinated by three officers*. The day following, the Duke of *Saxe-Lawenburgh*, his confident, met the same fate; and eighteen persons, among those most attached to him, were beheaded for having been partakers in his conspiracy.

The Duke of *Saxony*, after a long series of endeavours to restore peace to the empire by negotiation, found at length that the court of *Vienna* meant only to amuse him, and thereupon determined to engage in the war. His troops routed a numerous body of Imperialists, and obtained many advantages.

The *Swedes* likewise were successful in every place but *Bavaria*: there indeed, they received a very considerable defeat; the Imperialists and *Spaniards* attacking them in conjunction.

The King of *Hungary*, whom the Emperor his father had appointed General of his forces, laid siege to *Ratisbon*. *Bernard* Duke of *Weymar* and *Gustavus Horn*, as soon

* Ibid. *Puff.*

as they heard the town was besieged, joined their armies, and marched with all speed, in order to succour it; but they arrived too late; the *Swedish* Commandant, after a very brave defence having evacuated the town on the most honourable terms. As the Imperialists had received a considerable recruit of *Spanish* troops, *Horn* was averse to giving them battle; but the other officers over-ruling his opinion, the two armies engaged near *Nordlingen*. The fight was long and obstinate, the *Swedes* behaved with incredible valour, but superiority of numbers at length prevailing, they were defeated; and lost seventeen thousand men with all their baggage and artillery; besides four thousand taken prisoners; among whom was *Gustavus Horn* himself*.

The Chancellor was extremely shocked at the news of this overthrow; the allies were disconcerted beyond measure, and nothing was to be heard but complaints against the *Swedes*. This event had a great share in determining the Elector of

* Ibid,

Saxony to seek a separate peace with the Emperor: the *Swedish* allies in *Germany* grew cold in the common cause; and *Oxenstiern* had little hopes of any powerful assistance except from *France*, which he endeavoured by the most pressing instances to obtain; but could not procure it without delivering up *Alsace**, to his most Christian Majesty. The Elector of *Saxony* not only made his own peace, but reconciled most of the other Protestant Princes to the Emperor. On the thirteenth of *May*, the treaty of *Prague* was signed by the Duke of *Saxony*, *William* Duke of *Saxe-Weymar*, elder brother to Duke *Bernard*, the Dukes of *Lunenburgh* and *Mecklenburgh*, the Princes of *Anbalt*, and several free cities. The Dukes of *Mecklenburgh* were acknowledged in this treaty by the Emperor, and the affairs of most of the other Princes established on the same footing as before the war: the free exercise of the Protestant religion was permitted throughout *Germany*, the Emperor's hereditary dominions excepted; and part of the *Pa-*

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1635

* *Puff. rer. Sue.*

latinate secured to the Elector of *Bavaria*, on his paying the Princess *Palatine's* jointure, and promising a proper subsistence for her son, when he should return to his duty: it was likewise agreed, that every thing taken during the war should be restored, except *Philipsburgh*, which was still to remain in the hands of his Imperial Majesty.

The *Swedes* might very justly have complained of this ungenerous, or rather treacherous behaviour of their allies; but the disadvantages arising from their defection, was greater in appearance than in reality. The attention each Prince paid to his own private interest, had given rise to such a contrariety of sentiments and opinions, as greatly perplexed the *Swedish* Councils: some regard was to be shewn to the desires of every one of them, but the private views of each individual not only embarrassed the general cause, but being inconsistent and incompatible, deprived the *Swedes* of all liberty of action, and obliged them to employ more of their attention to avoid giving any disgust to one or other of their
allies,

allies, than could possibly consist with the common welfare. The *Swedish* armies indeed were in some measure lessened; but as they diminished in number, they increased in freedom, and if they expected less assistance, they were however sure of meeting with fewer impediments. They had still some Protestant Princes in their party; and this was sufficient to retain the *German* troops in their service, who might otherwise have scrupled fighting against their whole country; and were now at liberty to exact supplies, and contributions from far the greatest part of *Germany*, in which they were before obliged to be very sparing, to prevent their friends from taking offence*.

The King of *France* was rendered more earnest in the prosecution of the war, by the defection of the *German* Princes; he had for political reasons wished to prolong the disorders in *Germany*, but at the same time was unwilling to strengthen too much the Protestant cause. The less therefore those Princes seemed concerned

* *Puff.*

in it, the more ready he was to contribute to the success of the *Swedes*. For this reason he raised a considerable number of troops, part of which he committed to the conduct of *Bernard Duke of Saxe-Weymar*, who was appointed General of the forces of the Protestant Princes; and had been obliged to retire to the confines of *France*, by the approach of the Imperial army.

The Imperialists pursued their good fortune with great diligence: they drove the *Swedes* out of the greatest part of their conquests; and left them only the power of retaining the shores of the *Baltic*, which they were obliged to employ all their forces to preserve, since by that alone they could secure to themselves a retreat into *Sweden*. The Elector of *Saxony* also turned his arms against them; and endeavoured to seduce their officers from them by large sums of money, which at that time was become very scarce in the *Swedish* camp.

In the midst of this melancholy state of their affairs, the *Swedes* were much revived

revived by an advantage Marshal *Bannier* gained over the Elector of *Saxony's* army, wherein as they attempted to pass the *Elbe**, some thousands of the *Saxons* were taken or slain.

The Dukes of *Mecklenburgh* had received no benefit as yet from their treaty with the Emperor, except that of being acknowledged by him. The *Swedes* were still in possession of great part of their dutchy, and the rest of it was subjected to depredations of the *Saxons*, who had made it the seat of war. In this deplorable condition they had no hopes of relief, but from a peace between the *Swedes* and *Saxons*: they therefore offered their mediation to the Chancellor *Oxenstiern*, who approved their intention of using their best endeavours to procure a reconciliation: they then applied to the Duke of *Saxony*; but though the great interest they had in the success of their negociation, rendered them active and eloquent in the business they had undertaken; yet they could not prevail: the war was still profe-

* *Puff.*

cuted; and their country continued to suffer all the calamities to which it had been so long exposed*: the *French* Ambassador likewise endeavoured to obstruct a treaty, which by no means corresponded with his master's views of protracting the troubles in *Germany*.

But notwithstanding the impediments which arose, *John Albert* was not quite deprived of the pleasing hope of soon restoring peace to his country, when he was seized by a sickness, which carried him off on the twenty-third of *April*, in the forty-fifth year of his age. He had embraced the reformed religion and educated his children in the same profession. His first wife was *Margaret Elizabeth*, of the house of *Mecklenburgh*, by whom he had two sons, who died in their infancy; and two daughters, *Sophia Elizabeth*, and *Christiana Margaret*: for the first he was at that time in treaty of marriage with *Augustus*, Duke of *Wolfembutte*; but his death occasioning some delay in the completion of the nuptials, they were not celebrated till

* *Puff. de rer. Sue.*

the thirteenth of *July* following. For his second wife, he had espoused *Elizabeth*, daughter to the Landgrave of *Hesse*, by whom he had no children; and his third was *Eleonora Mary*, daughter of *Christiern*, the First, Prince of *Anbalt Dernburg*, by whom he had one son *Gustavus Adolphus*, and one daughter *Anna Sophia*, besides three children who died in their infancy.

At the time of his decease, *Gustavus Adolphus* was but three years old. The widow of the late Duke claimed the guardianship of her son and the government of his dominions; but *Adolphus Frederic*, his uncle, asserted, that as the nearest male relation, the care of his nephew, and the regency of the state, appertained to him. The Dutcheſs applied to the Emperor, who, as he wiſhed not to ſee that dutchy too powerful, was more inclined to have part of it remain under the rule of a woman, than that the whole ſhould be united under *Adolphus Frederic*; he therefore paſſed a degree in her favour,
and

and adjudged the guardianship of *Gustavus* to her.

Adolphus Frederic would not submit to this sentence, and prepared even to seize by force the person of his nephew. The Dutcheſs was not able to contend in a military manner; the people were for *Adolphus*; and the Emperor did not think it advisable to render the Duke of *Mecklenburgh* again his enemy; he therefore forbore to inſiſt on the execution of his decree, and *Adolphus* made good his pretensions. He ſent for the young Prince to his court and contrary to the inclination of the Dutcheſs Dowager, cauſed him to be educated in the Lutheran faith.

The *Swediſh* army began to be in great want of proviſions, in a country ſo continually ravaged; when Maſhal *Bannier*, having received a reinforcement of twelve thouſand *Pruſſians*, attacked the *Saxon* army, which had re-entered *Mecklenburgh*; and the Duke of *Saxony* found himſelf obliged to abandon his camp, and to paſs the *Havel*. His retreat gave *Bannier* liberty to diſperſe ſome of his troops in the
Marche

Marche of *Brandenburgh*, to procure themselves subsistence : and indeed he had a right to treat almost all *Germany* as a country belonging to the enemy, the *Swedes* being deserted by every *German* ally, except the Landgrave of *Hesse*, who was so surrounded with enemies, that it was not then in his power to give them any assistance.

The Elector of *Saxony* was so much weakened by the loss he had sustained in his engagement with the Marshal, that he withdrew into *Pomerania*, with a design of joining *Maracini*, who commanded the Imperial troops in that province. The *Swedes* closely pursued him, and in several skirmishes, killed many of his men : and even after he had effected his junction with the Imperialists, they took *Havelburgh* in sight of both armies, who durst not hazard a battle in its defence : they likewise defeated not long after twelve regiments of the *Saxon* army,

The Elector being reinforced by a body of *Austrian* troops, laid siege to *Magdeburgh*, which was so well stored with provisions

visions and ammunition, that *Bannier* hoped to raise a force sufficient to relieve the town before it could be obliged to surrender. In the mean time he took a view of the cities on the shores of the *Elbe*, to see that nothing was wanting towards their defence, in case they might be attacked on any advantage gained over him: but, to his great surprize, before he began his march towards *Magdeburgh*, they brought him word the city was taken. The garison had made a very vigorous defence; and by their frequent sallies, perhaps too frequent, had consumed their ammunition; which obliged them to surrender when least expected*. They obtained however an honourable capitulation; and were escorted to *Werben*, where *Bannier* then lay encamped.

The *Saxons* surprized *Tangermund*, which they plundered, and committed in the place great barbarities. The Elector being afterwards joined by the Imperial army, followed the Marshal into the dutchy of *Mecklenburgh*, and intrenched

* *Puff.*

himself in a forest within a league of *Bannier*, who was then encamped at *Parkeim*. He detached *Maracini* to besiege *Stargard*, where he had before been repulsed with loss; but was at present more successful; though the *Swedes* defended it with the utmost bravery. After *Maracini* had plundered the town, he abandoned it*.

Bannier waited only to be joined by *Wangel*, in order to give the *Saxons* and *Imperialists* battle, though their numbers would still far exceed his own. Accordingly, having received the expected succours, he endeavoured to draw the enemy from an advantageous post, which they occupied on a hill well fortified with redoubts and a great train of artillery: but they would not trust so far to the superiority of their numbers as to advance to meet the *Swedes*; which the Marshal perceiving, attacked them at the same time in different places with such vigour, that five or six thousand of the enemy were slain, and a much greater number were taken prisoners in the flight, which continued for three

* *Puff. rer. Sue.*

days; *Bannier*'s horse all the time pursuing them so closely, that out of twenty thousand men, of which the *Saxon* and *Austrian* armies consisted, only about three thousand fled to *Magdeburg*; a far greater number were dispersed, and so intimidated that they could never after be prevailed with to enter into military service. The Elector with much difficulty escaped to *Leipfic*. The artillery and a very great quantity of baggage all fell into the hands of the *Swedes*, to whom the fortress of *Werben* surrendered; and the garrison, which consisted of two thousand men, all enlisted into the *Swedish* service. *Bannier* not to lose the advantages which arise from a strong prepossession in favour of a victorious General, immediately passed the *Elbe* near *Werben*, entered into *Thuringia*, and driving the Imperialists through the country of *Hesse*, pursued them as far as *Westphalia*.

While affairs took this turn in *Mecklenburg* and *Pomerania*, the Imperialists were for some time more successful in *Lorraine*, and the adjacent parts. *Galas*, who commanded

manded there, took *Kaiser-lauter*; where the Duke of *Weymar* had deposited all the booty he had taken during the war. The Duke foresaw how little able this town was to resist the enemy, and was extremely anxious for the preservation of his wealth, but had not force sufficient to relieve it. The garrison defended it with an exemplary resolution; but after the most obstinate resistance, *Galas* took it by storm, and put every person in the town to the sword, without distinction of age or sex.

Galas then laid siege to *Deux-ponts*; and Count *Mansfeld*, who commanded another body of Imperialists, blocked up the city of *Mentz*; a place of great consequence to the *Suedes*, since it secured their communication with both sides of the *Rhine*. These towns were more fortunate than *Kaiser-lauter*. The Cardinal *de la Valette* brought an army of eighteen thousand *French* into *Germany*, in the month of *August*; with which having joined the Duke of *Weymar*, they forced the lines of the besiegers, and reinviguated *Mentz*:

then marching against *Galas*, they obliged him to abandon the siege of *Deux-ponts*.*

The *French* and *Swedes* having encamped near the city of *Mentz*, *Galas*, who had levied an army of thirty thousand men in the neighbourhood of *Worms*, so disposed his troops, as to intercept all the provisions which should be brought towards the enemy's camp; whereby he reduced them to extreme want of food and provender. In this emergency, nothing remained, but to change their quarters; they put a strong garrison into *Mentz*, and having buried their cannon, and burnt all their superfluous baggage, they marched without respite towards *Vaudrevange*, in *Lorraine*, in which place the *French* had a garrison.

Galas, with his cavalry, pursued them in their retreat, and overtook them between *Odernheim* and *Messenheim*. The *French* and *Swedes* finding the enemy so near, faced about, and vigorously repulsed the Imperialists. *Galas* was not discouraged by so moderate a disadvantage; but he put

* *Le Barre*.

himself

himself at the head of nine thousand horse, and taking a different road, entered *Lorrain*, and waited for them in a narrow pass between *Vaudrevange* and *Boulai*. Here he hoped to attack them with better fortune; and a very obstinate engagement ensued, wherein the Imperial cavalry was again defeated; but as *Galas* could easily repair his loss, he had still a sufficient number of troops to take *Vaudrevange*.

The *Swedes* gained some advantages over the Imperialists in *Westphalia*: General *Kniphausen* routed them near *Hasekunen*, after a very warm engagement, wherein above a thousand of the enemy were slain, but the General himself was killed in the battle*.

The Landgrave of *Hesse*, seeing the affairs of the *Swedes* assume a better aspect, took courage, and put himself at the head of a body of troops, with which he joined General *Lestly*. They marched in conjunction to *Hanau*, then closely besieged by the Imperialists, whom they obliged

* *Puff.*

with considerable loss, to desist from their enterprize.

A. D.
1636

At the latter end of this year, a treaty was concluded between the King of *France*, and *Bernard Duke of Saxe-Weymar*, whereby it was agreed, that the latter, in consideration of a certain yearly stipend, should maintain eighteen thousand men, of which he should have the command; as General of the *German Princes*, in alliance with the *French King*, to whom he was required to take an oath of allegiance. *Lewis* engaged to cede to him all claim on *Alsace*; and in case of a treaty with the Emperor, to use his utmost endeavours to obtain for him the title of Landgrave of that province, or some other equivalent.

The Duke of *Mecklenburgh*, who saw that this treaty would in all probability prolong the war, as industriously endeavoured to obstruct it, as to procure a peace between the *Swedes* and the *Saxons*, and to as little purpose. The Duke had for some time no other employment than negotiating. Fortune fluctuated so continually between each party, that he could
not

not venture to espouse either; nor was any thing besides his person, in his disposal; his dutchy being always in the hands of one or the other; generally indeed divided between both; continually exposed to their ravages, and equally treated as an enemy's country, which side soever came into possession of it. That country was particularly desirable to each party: to the Imperialists, as it deprived the *Swedes* of the means of retreating into *Jutland*; to the *Swedes*, as it secured them a passage thither; and to both in opening to them a road into their enemy's country. To reconcile the *Swedes* and the Emperor was a difficult task: the Duke of *Mecklenburgh* was not so visionary as to believe he could effect it, he therefore applied all his endeavours to bring about a private peace between the *Swedes* and the *Saxons**, which would have saved his country from being the seat of a merciless war, that might put it in point of distress, at least on an equality with the rest of *Germany*. He was continually mediating between these two powers, but all

Puff. de rer. Sue.

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he

minions fell to the Elector of *Brandenburg*; but as they were at that time possessed by the *Swedes*, he could not enter upon the succession*.

The Imperialists made several unsuccessful attacks on *Hermenstein*; but the *French* garrison in that town, by frequent depredations on the territories of *Calogn* and *Mentz*, distressed those Archbishops so much, that they prevailed with *John de Wert*, an Imperial General, to attempt it once more. The Garrison made a vigorous defence, in hopes of being relieved, but it was not in the power of the allies to answer their expectation, being at that period too much engaged in other parts.

During this time, the Duke of *Saxe-Weymar*, defeated General *Merci*, killed eight hundred of his men, and took a thousand prisoners, besides seizing a very great number of horses, and much baggage. *Merci* soon rallied his troops, in hopes of retrieving his honour, but on the contrary he received a total overthrow.

* *Memoirs de Brandenburg.*

When

When the *Swedes* found there was no prospect of an approaching peace, the states ordered Marshal *Bannier* to direct all his operations against the Princes of *Lunenburgh*, and the Elector of *Brandenburgh* and *Saxony*; by that means to open himself a passage into the Emperor's hereditary dominions. The Imperialists, esteeming the *Swedes* their most formidable enemies, opposed their chief strength to *Bannier*, with an intention of oppressing him entirely; as they would afterwards be sufficiently at liberty to stop the progress of the *French*. The Marshal therefore had no part to act, but to prepare for a vigorous defence against a force so superior to that he commanded; and instead of attempting new conquests, was obliged to direct all his diligence and care, to preserve what he already possessed. In the spring he defeated eight *Saxon* regiments near *Eulenburgh*, and having pursued them as far as *Torgau*, they surrendered themselves prisoners of war. He released the officers, but made the soldiers enlist in his army*.

* *Puff.*

THE HISTORY OF

In the country of *Henneburgh* the Imperialists were likewise routed; and afterwards near *Pegau*: many small parties of them also were cut to pieces by *Bannier*, at different times; but still the superior number of his enemies greatly embarrassed him. The country was rendered so desolate that it was difficult to procure provisions near his camp, and still more so to get any supplies at a distance, as the Imperialists were in possession of most of the adjacent parts. His commission being to defend the banks of the *Elbe*, he was not at liberty to lead his troops to the Duke of *Saxe-Weymar*, whose army would have been strengthened by the junction, and *Bannier's* safety the better secured. In this extremity he endeavoured, notwithstanding the inequality of numbers, to bring the Imperialists to an engagement, but they avoided a danger they thought unnecessary, and hoped to destroy the *Swedes* gradually, by less hazardous means. The Marshal found himself obliged to divide even his little army, in order to procure them sustenance, and to harass and weary

weary his enemies by marches and counter-marches; which afforded him opportunities of some times defeating little parties of stragglers; but at length he was so hardly beset in *Pomerania*, that he lost many of his men, and the Imperialists took the islands of *Usedom* and *Wollin*; the town of *Damin*, and some other places; but their progress was obstructed by the coming on of winter; and they retired into quarters in *Mecklenburgh* and *Lower Saxony*.

The Dukes of *Mecklenburgh*, in conjunction with some other Princes, endeavoured in this season of inaction, to mediate a peace, but the Emperor's hopes of entirely destroying his enemies, were now become too sanguine, to leave him much disposition for entering into any negotiation.

The *Swedes* had likewise a great loss in the death of the Landgrave of *Hesse-Cassel*, who had taken the *Palatine* family under his protection, and went to *Holland*, in order to engage the *Dutch* to join him in the generous design of restoring those Princes

Princes to their dominions. He then repaired to *St. Chammond* the Minister of *France*, and entered into a treaty with him on the same account, but died at *Leer* near *Embsen* in his return.

When the *Swedes* found there was no hope of a peace with the Emperor, they prevailed with *France* to unite in a league with them for three years, nor could all the endeavours of the Duke of *Mecklenburgh* prevent it.

A. D.
1638

In the spring the Imperialists surprized *Gratz*; but the continual devastations of the northern provinces of *Germany*, occasioned such a famine there, that the greatest part of the Imperial army perished.

Marshal *Bannier* having received some reinforcements from *Sweden*, put new garrisons into all the towns he possessed; and selecting his veteran troops, took the field. He recovered *Gratz*, and seized *Loitz*, *Tribseß*, and *Damgarten*. He then penetrated into the duchy of *Mecklenburgh*, where he defeated the Imperialists, and obliged *Galas* to retire with the loss of three thousand men; the *Swedes* still pursuing, obliged

obliged him to repass the *Elbe*, and to retire into the Emperor's hereditary dominions, to recruit and refresh his broken army*.

The Duke of *Saxe-Weimar* employed the first part of the winter, in preventing the bad effects he feared from the death of the Landgrave of *Hesse-Cassel*, by fixing his Protestant allies in their former engagements, who, discouraged by the loss of the Landgrave, began to waver.

In the latter end of *January*, while the severity of the winter occasioned a general inaction in the *Austrian* party, the Duke began his campaign. He carried two fishing boats in a waggon to the *Rhine*, which by that means he passed; took the Forest-towns of *Seckingen*, *Lauffemburg*, and *Waldshut*; and laid siege to *Rhinfield*†. This place he attacked with great vigour; but it was so resolutely defended by the Governor, that the Imperialists had leisure to march to its relief. *Savelli* and *John de Wert* joined their forces on this occasion, and gave the Duke battle on

* Ibid. † *Memoirs de Bassompierre.*

the twenty-eighth of *February*. The night parted them without any decisive advantage gained on either side, though great numbers were slain on both. But the Duke of *Saxe-Weymar* having received some recruits the next day, attacked the Duke *de Savelli* and *de Wert*; whose men being dispersed in the neighbouring villages, were with difficulty assembled, and the more easily defeated for the confusion which could not wholly be prevented in so unexpected an engagement: accordingly the Duke gained a compleat victory, and the two Generals with many officers of note were taken prisoners*.

Rhinfield submitted to the Duke, after all hope of succour was lost by the destruction of the Imperial army. *Nenburg Rattelen*, and *Brifgau* were obliged to do the same. He then laid siege to *Brisac*†, which the Duke of *Lorrain* endeavoured to relieve, and attacked Duke *Weymar* in his intrenchments at various times; and though he was constantly repulsed, yet their attempts served to encourage the garrison

* *Ibid.* † *Puff.*

so effectually, that they defended the place, till it was reduced to such extreme famine, that the Governor was obliged to place a guard over the burying ground, to prevent the inhabitants digging up, and feeding on the bodies of the dead.

Charles Lewis, Prince *Palatine*, and his brother *Robert*, were less successful. They had levied some regiments in the *Low Countries*, which they led into *Westphalia*. They laid siege to *Lemgau*, the capital of the country of *Lippe*; but Count *Hasfeld*, the Emperor's Lieutenant General in *Westphalia*, would not suffer them to prosecute this enterprize unmolested; he assembled all his troops, and marching towards *Lemgau*, obliged the Prince, who knew his forces insufficient to encounter the enemy, to raise the siege, and retreat towards *Minden*: but the Count having overtaken him in the valley of *Astheim*, brought him to an engagement, wherein he was totally defeated, and with great difficulty escaped to *Minden*: Prince *Robert* was taken prisoner.

X

During

During the winter, the Duke of *Saxe-Weymar*, and Marshal *Bannier* agreed to make an irruption the next year, into the Emperor's hereditary dominions, in order
 A. D. 1639 to force him to consent to a peace. In pursuance of the measures concerted, *Bannier* having passed the *Elbe* at *Lawenburg*, entered into the countries of *Anbalt* and *Halberstadt*, where he left his infantry and artillery, and proceeded at the head of his cavalry. Between *Oelnitz* and *Reichenbach* he surprized *Sallis*, Grand Master of the Imperial artillery, who was endeavouring to escape into *Bohemia*, and cut to pieces the seven regiments which he commanded. He afterwards defeated four *Saxon* battalions near *Dresden**.

He then laid siege to *Fryburg*, but soon abandoned it, on receiving intelligence that *Hatsfeld* had quitted *Westphalia* to come to the relief of that place. He then went to *Zeitz*, where he sent for his infantry to join him, when having heard that the Imperialists and *Saxons* were encamped between *Zuichau* and *Cheumnitz*, where

* Ibid.

they

they waited for *Hatsfeld*, he determined to prevent their junction, and marching directly to the enemy, after an obstinate engagement, so totally defeated them, that very few escaped.

He lost none of the advantages arising from this victory; but making an irruption into *Bobemia*, routed the forces commanded by *Hofkirck*; killed above two thousand of his men, and took him and *Monteculi* prisoners. He endeavoured to the utmost of his power, to render *Bobemia* and *Silesia* the seats of war; and gained several advantages in those places over the Imperialists; but though great numbers of them perished in the frequent attacks they received from him, yet their numbers were so superior, that it was impossible for his army to oppose them in any considerable engagement, nor could he much extend his conquests. His great aim was to preserve the places he had taken, and by harraffing the enemy, to keep them in the Emperor's hereditary dominions, till the Duke of *Saxe-Weymar*,

according to the plan agreed upon, should join him; but in this he was disappointed.

That Duke, in the midst of his conquests, fell sick at *Huningen*, from whence he was transported to *Neuburg*, where he died*, not without suspicion of poison, supposed to have been administered by the *French*†, who had pressed him extremely to deliver up *Brisac* to them; to which he made no other reply, than, “Ask a
“a virgin to make a sacrifice of her
“chastity.” The death of this brave man was an irreparable loss to the *Swedes*, not only in being deprived of so able a General, but, because the *French* prevailed with his army to receive a Commander from them; to take an oath of allegiance to the King of *France*, and to deliver up into his hands all the places they had conquered. That Monarch who had private views in this war, was not at all disposed to concur with the *Swedes* in their operations, and had been so fully determined to secure these troops, that he caused the Elector *Palatine* to be seized,

A. D.
1640

* *Memoirs de Bassompierre.* † *Puff.*

and

and sent prisoner to the *Bois de Vincennes*, as he was passing through *France* in his way from *England*, which he had left immediately on hearing of the Duke of *Saxe-Weymar's* death, in order to solicit the command of his army.

Marshal *Bannier* had left a body of troops in *Mecklenburgh*, commanded by *Axel Feli*, who reduced a great part of that country under the power of the *Swedes*, but granted to many places permission to preserve a neutrality: a favourable circumstance to the Duke of *Mecklenburgh*, who that year celebrated the marriage of his niece, *Christina Margaret*, daughter to Duke *John Albert*, with *Francis Albert* Duke of *Saxe-Lawenburgh*. The Emperor found *Bannier* so formidable an enemy, that he endeavoured to gain him over to his party, by a promise of two duchies in *Silesia*. The proposals were made to his wife, who dazzled by the prospect of so splendid a fortune, and anxious to see her husband delivered from the fatigues and dangers of so desperate a war, used her utmost power to prevail on him to ac-

cept the Emperor's offer; but it fell to the ground without any other consequence, than having excited suspicions against him in *Sweden*, to which he owed their refusal to invest him with the full powers he had solicited.

Marshal *Bannier* finding that *Picolomini*, General of the Imperialists, was marching towards *Bavaria*, to prevent his entrance into that dutchy, sent to the Duke of *Longueville*, Commander of the troops which had belonged to the Duke of *Saxe-Weymar*, to propose a junction of the two armies, declaring, that if he did not agree to it he would henceforth consider only his own safety, and no more think of acting in concert with the *French*. This menace proved effectual; he then marched towards the dominions of the Duke of *Brunswic* and *Lunenburgh*, in order to oblige them to unite their forces with his, and to follow the example of *Amelia*, Princess Dowager of *Hesse*, who had entered into a strict alliance with the *French* and *Swedes*: his views were answered; *George* Duke of *Brunswic* engaged

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gaged to furnish three thousand foot, and five hundred horse.

When Marshal *Bannier* was joined by these, and the Duke of *Longueville's* troops, he advanced to *Saltzfeld*, where *Picolomini* was posted; but could not there, nor in several other places to which he followed that General, bring him to an engagement the whole summer; and his camp was always too well guarded, and his intrenchments too strong to be attacked without manifest danger.

Had the Marshal been entirely master of the army, the campaign would have turned out more to his satisfaction, but the *French* and *German* Generals, by a continual opposition, obstructed all his measures. The *Swedes* in many small rencountres killed a considerable number of the Imperialists; but both armies were more diminished by the fatigues of marches, and counter-marches, and extreme want of provisions, than by the sword; each of them were in a sad condition, and greatly decreased, when they retired into their winter quarters.

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A. D.
1641

THE HISTORY OF

In the beginning of the following year, the Emperor held a diet at *Ratisbon*, where *Bannier* attempted to surprize him, and would in all probability have succeeded in his design, had not a sudden thaw impeded his march *. After this disappointment, he penetrated into *Bobemia*, where he was in a short time so surrounded by the enemy, that his destruction appeared inevitable; but he contrived to extricate himself out of so perilous a situation, and retire to *Zuickaw*; having gained greater military glory by a retreat, which to inferior geniuses seemed impossible, than by all his former conquests. The fatigues he had undergone, however, overcame his strength; he fell sick, and being removed to *Halberstadt*, expired on the twentieth of *May*. His death was an irreparable loss to the *Swedes*, and was lamented by many of his enemies, his moderation and humanity being equal to his courage. His generosity gained the hearts of those his valour had conquered, and his soldiers

* Ibid.

adored.

adored and loved him, having been treated by him with the tenderness of a father.

The death of the Marshal caused great consternation in *Sweden*, and raised the hopes of the house of *Austria*; both sides esteeming him the most able General of the age: but the former were considerably revived by a victory which the Count de *Guebriant* (who had at that time the command of the troops in the King of *France's* pay, and to whom *Bannier's* army had submitted till they should receive a General from *Sweden*) obtained over the Imperialists near *Wolfembuttel*, wherein four thousand were slain, and great numbers taken prisoners.

The *Swedes* sent General *Torstenfon*, at the head of eight thousand men, to take on him the command of *Bannier's* army; but he could not prevail on *Guebriant* to act in conjunction with him*, and therefore took up his winter quarters in *Bohemia*.

The next year began with a victory gained by *Guebriant* over the Imperialists

A. D.
1642

* Ibid.

near

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near *Memphen*, which procured him the conquest of almost the whole electorate of *Cologn* *: while the Duke of *Saxe-Lawenburgh*, took on the other hand all the places possessed by the *Swedes* in *Silesia*; but *Torstenſon* not only recovered them again, but in a pitched battle defeated the army of the Duke, who being dangerously wounded, was taken prisoner and died within a few days after.

Torstenſon obtained a second victory over the Imperial army in the plain of *Breitenfeld*, near *Leipſic*, wherein above eight thousand Imperialists were slain; and afterwards made himself master of *Leipſic* †: but *Guebriant* was less fortunate: he died of a wound he received at *Rotweil*, and his army after his decease, was defeated by the *Bavarian* General.

A. D.
1643

A war which broke out between *Sweden* and *Denmark*, much weakened the operations in *Germany* for the remainder of that year, and the year following; but notwithstanding this the Viscount *de Turenne* found means to revenge the loss of *Gue-*

* *Sieur de Heiſſe.* † *Puff. Intro. ad Hiſt. Sue-
briant's*

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briant's army, by defeating the Count de *Merci*. A. D. 1644

As soon as a reconciliation between *Sweden* and *Denmark* was effected, *Torsten*son returned into *Germany*, and drove the Imperialists under the command of *Galas*, from place to place, seizing all the convoys of provisions that were sent them, till many died of famine; and others deserted to the *Swedish* camp. 1645

*Torsten*son then advanced towards *Prague*, in hopes of taking the Emperor and Archduke *Leopold*, who resided in that city, but they escaped to *Vienna* *. They collected their various forces together, whom *Torsten*son engaged not far from *Thabor*, and gave them a most compleat overthrow. Great numbers of them were killed; the principal officers taken prisoners; and a large quantity of artillery and baggage fell to the conqueror.

After this victory his conquests were so rapid, that the Emperor with his whole court fled from *Vienna* to *Ratisbon*; removing all his valuable furniture; and

* *Le Barre*.

pulling

pulling down the suburbs of *Vienna*, in order to prepare the better for a siege.

The war between the *Austrians* and *French* was carried on with the utmost vigour: the latter received a defeat from the Count *de Merci*, but afterwards gained a compleat victory near *Nordlingen*; though not without great slaughter on the side of the conquerors.

Torstenfon during this time laid waste all *Austria*, advancing even to the gates of *Vienna*; but at the end of the year being much afflicted by the gout, and satiated as it were with military fame, he resigned the command of the army, and retired into *Sweden**.

A. D. He was succeeded by General *Wrangel*,
 1646 who after being joined by Marshal *Turenne*, ravaged *Bavaria*, and thereby determined
 1647 the Elector to enter into a treaty with *France*, but he soon after renounced it, and rejoined the Imperialists.

1648 The next year the *Swedes* and *French* in conjunction, defeated the Imperialists near *Augsburg*, and again ravaging *Ba-*

* *Puff.* Intro.

varia, obliged the Duke to leave his capital city, and seek an asylum from the Archbishop of *Saltzburgh*. The arms of the allies were equally successful in the dutchy of *Guliers*; and *Charles Gustavus* presumptive heir to *Christina* Queen of *Sweden*, having brought a reinforcement of eight thousand *Swedes*, laid siege to the city of *Prague*, and attacked it with so much vigour, that the Emperor fearing the loss of all *Bohemia*, resolved to consent to the peace, which had been negotiating at *Munster* and *Osnaburg* for five years.

By this treaty, which was afterwards called the peace of *Westphalia*, the Elector *Palatine* was restored to part of his dominions; the Protestants were allowed the free exercise of their religion; and all the Princes were more fully established in their rights and privileges. The Dukes of *Mecklenburgh* obtained the peaceable possession of all their dutchy, except the port of *Wismar*, which was granted to *Sweden*, with the district of *Pohl* and *Neukloster*: the *Swedes* indeed offered to give
in

in exchange for it, the bishopric of *Minden*; but the Duke's Envoy having no commission to treat on that subject, paid little regard to the offer; and thus lost an advantage which the Elector of *Brandenburg* was glad to obtain, and prevailed with the *Swedes* to relinquish that bishopric to him.

The Emperor assigned to the Duke of *Mecklenburgh*, as a compensation for the loss of *Wismar*, the towns and districts which had belonged to the bishoprics of *Schuerin* and *Ratzeburg*; likewise two commanderies of the order of *Saint John*, of *Jerusalem*, *Miron* and *Nemerow*, both situated in the dutchy of *Mecklenburgh*; besides some other of the secularized benefices*. To *Sweden* was yielded *Bremen* and *Verden*, *Stettin* and all *Upper Pomerania*; *Wismar*, and the isle of *Rugen*, with five millions of crowns, towards reimbursing them for the expences in the war: and to *France*, the Emperor resigned *Brisac* and *Alsace*.

* Ibid.

The Duke of *Mecklenburgh* had indeed acquired the possession of his dominions, but in so deplorable a condition, as left him for some time but little enjoyment of them. The country was depopulated; the land not much better than a desert; and agriculture, and commerce no longer heard of; for the artificer and the labourer had been obliged to lay by their respective employments, and to betake themselves to arms.

The soldiery therefore was almost the only order of men left in the dutchy. To reduce those to submission and regularity, who by having been plundered of all they possessed, had no means of subsistence left but by plundering others, was no easy task. The people were become strangers to all lawful subordination; and the Duke found his labours but little diminished by the public peace. He had in a manner a new state to form, a new land to cultivate. Every art, every manufacture was lost; and to restore, was not less difficult than at first to introduce them.

He

He applied himself by gentle degrees to bring his subjects into regular obedience; and by every encouragement tempted them to turn their minds to agriculture. He re-established the decayed manufactures, and repaired the cities and towns, which had in a great measure been demolished during the late wars.

His family had likewise a share in his attention. The year before the peace was concluded, he married his daughter *Anna Maria* to *Augustus* Duke of *Wessensfels*; and was no sooner settled in the quiet possession of his estate; than he gave his niece *Anna Sophia* in marriage, to *Lewis* the Fourth, Duke of *Leignitz*.

A. D.
1649
May 4.

A. D.
1650

The following year, his daughter *Sophia Agnes* was betrothed to *Augustus*, Margrave of *Brandenburgh Bayrent*; but that Prince dying before the marriage was solemnized, *Sophia* would accept of no other offer, but retired from public, and embraced a religious life. His niece *Christiana Margaret*, widow of *Saxe-Lawenburgh*, slain during the war between the
Emperor

MECKLENBURGH.

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Lowenburgh, slain during the war with the Emperor and the *Swedes*, he married to *Christian*, his eldest son, this same year*.

When *Gustavus Adolphus*, Duke of *Mecklenburgb Gustrow*, arrived at an age capable of assuming the reins of government, he found his dominions far more flourishing than after so long a series of disorder and devastation could reasonably be expected. As *Adolphus Frederic* had given as great a share of his attention to the dominions of his nephew as to his own, the young Prince had little left him but to proceed on the plan which his uncle had begun.

As his principality lay almost contiguous to *Holstein*, he could not make a more useful alliance than with the Dukes of that country; and accordingly took to wife *Magdalen Sibilla*, daughter to the Duke of *Holstein Gottorp*.

A. D.
1654

Adolphus Frederic departed this life in the ninetieth year of his age. This Prince had nineteen children, six died in their infancy, thirteen survived him. By *Anna Maria*, Princess of *East-Friezland*, he had

1658

* *Andersf. Geneal.*

Christian his successor in the dutchy, *Charles, John George, Gustavus Radolphus*; and two daughters, *Sophia Agnes*, who had been betrothed to the Margrave of *Brandenburg Bayrent*, and passed the remainder of her life in a convent; and *Anna Maria*, married to the Duke of *Wessensfeld*. By *Mary Catharine*, his last wife, Princess of *Brunswic*, he left *Frederic*, to whom he bequeathed the territory of *Grabow*, and five daughters, *Juliana, Sibilla, Cbristina, Mary Elizabeth*, and *Anna Sophia*. His Dutcheſs was delivered in about seven months after his decease of a son, *Adolphus Frederic**, to whom was assigned that part of *Mecklenburgh* now distinguished by the title of the dutchy of *Strelitz*.

Christian.

A. D.

1658

If *Christian* when he succeeded to the dutchy of *Mecklenburgh Schuerin*, (for so his part of that country now began to be called) found his dominions in a much more prosperous state than they had been for many years, his disposition disqualified him for reaping much benefit from them; and family dissensions prevented that happy

* Ibid.

tranquility which the good agreement subsisting between him, and the neighbouring Princes, would otherwise have permitted. In personal advantages he was superior to any of his cotemporaries. The vivacity of his wit was no less remarkable than his extraordinary beauty; and although he had not gone far in any of the sciences, he much loved the company and conversation of learned men; and by the strength and quickness of his parts, together with a competent knowledge in polite literature, rendered himself no less pleasing to them. He was generous, and magnificent, he delighted in conferring favours; and bestowed them with such grace that the manner of giving charmed equally with the gift. Thus qualified, happiness seemed within his reach; but only seemed, for he was defective in many of those essential points which alone can procure it. His understanding was rather bright than solid; he was deficient in prudence, and still more so in morals. His religion was merely nominal; passion was the guide of his actions, and nature's be-

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neficence excited in his mind, vanity instead of gratitude.

His disposition was naturally turned to gallantry, and the favourable reception which his person and accomplishments, joined to the splendor of his rank could not fail to procure him, by encouraging this vice, added the power of habit, to his natural disposition. Constancy was the last virtue one could expect in such a character, and it was a merit upon which he certainly did not pique himself. He soon grew tired of his wife; but as he was too pleasing to be looked on with indifference, she severely felt the loss of his affections. It was not more difficult for him to restrain his inclinations, than for the dutchess to conceal her grief. Her reproaches and complaints turned his indifference into disgust, and his ill treatment changed her affliction into resentment. All domestic happiness was soon banished, and continual disagreement reigned in their family*, nor was this the only interruption to his peace.

* *Martiniere.*

The Dukes of *Mecklenburgh* not having been able to exert their full authority, whilst their dominions were distressed by long wars, the nobility had much encroached on the prerogatives of the Sovereign, and neglected to pay the fines and other dues, which the Princes of all the neighbouring states exacted. *Christian* thought the time favourable for recovering his rights, and required the payment of the sums to which he believed he had a just title; but the nobility denied the legality of his claim, and unanimously refused to comply with his demands; and as it was a point not well to be decided by the sword, since a dispute terminated only by a superior strength, is liable to be renewed as soon as the losing party thinks himself able to contend with more advantage; the Duke and his nobles applied to the law for a decision, and the cause was prosecuted at *Vienna*; the Emperor having a right, in points of great importance, to be supreme judge, in any part of the empire. This dissention between the Duke and

his nobility, rendered his court little better than a solitude; for his subjects avoided his presence, and the conversation of his wife was become distasteful. A man so formed to please the world, could ill submit to live without society; he therefore committed the government of the state to a certain number of counsellors, and leaving a country which afforded him nothing but vexation, withdrew into *France*; in hopes that the pleasures to be met with in that gay kingdom, and the conversation of men of genius and learning, would in some degree, remove from his mind, the painful sense of domestic troubles.

The other sex however, had a considerable part of his attention: he became much enamoured of *Isabella Angelica de Montmorenci*, widow to the Duke de *Cbatillon*, and sister to the Marechal de *Luxemburgh*. This lady was by no means inclined to reject the addresses of a Sovereign Prince; but there was a considerable bar to the completion of their wishes: the Duke's first wife was still living; and to remove that obstacle, appeared to them extremely

extremely difficult. A means, however, was at last discovered; and a change of religion judged the surest way to a divorce, Cardinal *Barterini* was appointed by the Pope to receive the Duke's abjuration of Lutheranism: he was new baptised by the name of *Lewis*, and declared a convert to the Catholic faith.

The King, to shew how much he was pleased with a Prince who had forsaken what his Majesty esteemed an erroneous worship, immediately conferred on him the order of the *Holy Ghost*: but the Cardinal, though he assumed great honour from the Duke's conversion, being better acquainted with the motives of his change, in four days time more agreeably rewarded him by annulling his marriage, on pretence that it was contracted within the prohibited degrees, and without having first obtained a dispensation from the Pope: an indisputable fact, since a Lutheran Prince would certainly not think of applying to his Holiness on any such occasion*.

* Ibid.

A. D.

1663

His second marriage soon followed the dissolution of the first; but the wife he had taken such unworthy methods to procure, revenged by her behaviour the treatment her predecessor had received from the Duke; *Isabella* was less affectionate, but not more passive, and rendered their union a continual source of disquiet.

The Duke had no resource for consolatory under his vexations, as the conversation of the learned; which he sought with such industry, that he undertook a journey incognito to *Rome*, to insinuate himself into the acquaintance of Father *Kircher*, who then stood high in fame on account of his great erudition. It was ever this Prince's fate to be disappointed: *Kircher's* conversation by no means answered the trouble he had taken. He either found that reputation is often acquired by such learning as is distinct from real knowledge; or the Father was reserved in his discourse with a man, who though not unlearned, was a stranger to pedantry; and therefore no fit companion for one
absorbed

absorbed in science: the Duke was much mortified by the little success of his journey, and declared his disappointment in terms not very pleasing to the learned Father.

His absence from his country exposed it to evils, from which he might, in some measure, have defended it. During the war between *France* and *Germany*, the *Suedes*, in conjunction with the former, invaded the dominions of the Elector of *Brandenburgh*.

Mecklenburgh frequently suffered by its vicinity; and, for some years became the seat of the war; for the *Suedes* being hard pressed by the Elector at the head of a superior force, retreated into that dutchy; which brought upon it the most grievous calamities, though it was engaged in alliance both with *Sweden* and *Brandenburgh*.

A. D.
1675

1677

Though the Duke was not less desirous to get rid of his second wife than he had been of the first, yet he could not so easily find a means of delivering himself from her; for, however great his disgust, he did

A. D.
1688

did not chuse to quit *France* in order to avoid her, but continued there till the war broke out between that kingdom and the Emperor, who then caused it to be signified to him, that he expected he should not reside in an enemy's country *. The Duke, though unwillingly, was obliged to obey. He could not however prevail with himself to return into *Mecklenburgh*, where he had little reason to expect a very affectionate reception, after having abjured the established religion; and treated so ill a wife who was dear to his subjects, on account of her being the daughter of *John Albert*, and sister to the reigning Duke of *Gustrow*; to whose resentment likewise he did not think proper to expose himself: but *Holland* being at that time in alliance with the Emperor; and a place where he might live with ease and freedom, he retired to the *Hague*, and continued there till his death, which happened in the year 1692, when he had attained the sixty-ninth year of his age.

1692

* History of Germany.

Christian Lewis leaving no issue, the succession caused great confusion. His brother *Frederic Duke of Mecklenburgh Grabow*, had been dead four years, and left by his wife, daughter to the *Landgrave of Hesse*, three sons, *Frederic William*, *Charles Leopold*, and *Christian Lewis*; and one daughter named *Sophia Louisa*. *Frederic William* claimed his uncle's dominions as representative of his father, who was the next brother to *Christian Lewis*, but *Adolphus Frederic Duke of Strelitz*, younger brother to *Christian Lewis*, and uncle to *Frederic William*, asserted his title as the nearest relation; but the dispute being referred to the decision of the Elector of *Brandenburg**, his plea proved unavailing, and the succession was adjudged to *Frederic William* his nephew.

But the peace which ensued from this decision was soon disturbed by a new contention of the same kind.

Gustavus Adolphus Duke of Gustrow died at the age of twenty-six: he had settled all the previous circumstances of a mar-

* *Memoires de Brandenburg.*

riage between *Louisa* his daughter, and *Frederic* the fourth King of *Denmark*; but did not live to see the nuptials celebrated, which were not performed till the fifth of *December* following, when she was received with great pomp by the King, and made a most magnificent entrance into *Copenhagen*, accompanied by her sister the Dutchess of *Strelitz*, several ladies of quality of *Mecklenburgh*, and all the *Danish* nobility.

Gustavus had by his wife *Magdalen Sibilla*, daughter of *Frederic*, Duke of *Holstein Gottorp*, eight daughters who survived him; *Mary*, wife to *Adolphus Frederic* the Second, Duke of *Strelitz*; *Magdalen*, who died single; *Sophia*, married to *Christina Ulric*, Duke of *Wertemberg Bensadt*; *Christina*, to *Christian Lewis* Count of *Stolberg*; *Hedwiga*, to *Augustus* Duke of *Saxe Merseburg*; *Louisa*, to the King of *Denmark*; *Elizabeth*, to *Henry* Duke of *Saxe Merseburg*; and *Augusta*, who died unmarried: besides these he had one son, and a daughter who did not survive their infancy; and *Charles* who died seven years before

before his father, without leaving any issue, and had married *Mary Emilia*, daughter of *Frederic William*, Elector of *Brandenburgh*.

Gustavus Adolphus thus dying without male issue; the dissensions between the Duke of *Strelitz* and his nephew the Duke of *Schuerin* were again renewed. Each claimed the succession to the dukedom of *Gustrow*; to which the former had a double title, not only as the nearer relation, but in right of his wife, the eldest daughter of the deceased Duke.

This contention rose too high to be decided amicably: each Prince had recourse to arms; and the Duke of *Strelitz* finding himself inferior in forces to his nephew, called in the King of *Sweden* to his aid. The *Swedes* took the city of *Gustrow*, and by the progress they made in that dutchy so alarmed the Emperor, that he interfered in the quarrel, and by representing to the Princes of the circle of *Lower Saxony* the danger of introducing a foreign enemy into that country, prevailed with them to consent that the dutchy of *Gustrow* should be
put

put in sequestration, till the rights of the pretenders to the succession were legally determined. To this decree likewise the Duke of *Strelitz* submitted; but the *Swedes* refused to evacuate the places in their possession*.

A. D.
1697

The Emperor decided in favour of the Duke of *Mecklenburgh Schuerin*, but the *Swedes* refused to admit him into the city of *Gustrow*; and the Princes of *Lower Saxony* displeased with the Emperor's decision, supported the garrison in the maintenance of that place, whereby all the northern provinces became involved in the quarrel. At length both parties grew tired of a war, which an equality of success had kept alive; and they agreed on a compromise, by which it was settled; That *Frederic William* should enjoy the succession, on condition that he made over to the Duke of *Strelitz*, the principality of *Ratzeburgh*; with the right of voting in the Imperial diet belonging to that province, and all other prerogatives appertaining to it. That he should possess the lordship of *Stargard*,

* History of Germany.

with its dependencies, and the two commanderies of *Mirow*, and *Nemerow*, together with a part of the customs of *Boitzenburg**.

Frederic William, in succeeding to the dominions of *Gustavus Adolphus*, inherited likewise his law-suit with his nobles. They endeavoured to prevail on the nephew, as soon as he was established in his dutchy, to relinquish the claim to which his uncle had pretended; but this Prince, though extremely pacific in his inclinations, would not sacrifice the interests of his successors to his love of quiet; therefore in order to reconcile such jarring considerations, he persuaded them to consent that the affair should remain in the state he found it, till the Emperor decided the dispute; and in the mean time they agreed to pay him annually a certain stipulated sum.

When he had thus taken the most probable means of securing the public tranquillity, he sought to provide for his domestic happiness, and married *Sophia Charlotte*, daughter to the Landgrave of *Hesse Cassel*. But all the Dukes care was insuf-

A. D.
1701

A. D.
1704

* *Martiniere*.

ficient to procure his subjects the felicity which he wished, and as far as his own conduct extended, endeavoured to confer upon them. His government was mild and gentle; so far from taking any oppressive measures, he made the ease and welfare of his people the sole motive of all his actions; but it was the unhappy fate of *Mecklenburgh* to suffer at that time, as well as at many others, by the restless ambition of its more powerful neighbours.

In the war between *Charles* the Twelfth, King of *Sweden*, and the Czar of *Muscovy*, and during the several revolutions in *Poland*, *Mecklenburgh* was laid waste by the contending armies*. The Duke professed a neutrality which was not allowed to his dominions; the convenience of each party prompted them to seize several of the strongest places in *Mecklenburgh*; nor was any part of the dutchy free from these calamities. *Strelitz* beheld, for a long time an enemy at its gates; and became a prey to both armies. *Adolphus Frederic* the Second, Duke of *Strelitz*, died whilst

A. D.
1708

* History of *Germany*.

his

his country continued in this distracted state. By *Mary* his first wife, daughter to *Gustavus Adolphus* the last Duke of *Gustrow*, he left one son, *Adolphus Frederic* the Third, who succeeded to his dominions; and a daughter, *Gustava Carolina*, who married her cousin *Christian Lewis*, Administrator of *Mecklenburgh Schuerin*. *Adolphus Frederic* married for his second wife *Johanna* daughter to *Frederic*, Duke of *Saxe Gotha*; and for his third, *Christian Amelia Antonia*, daughter to the Prince of *Schwartzburg Sondershausen*, by whom he had a son, named *Charles Lewis Frederic*, born about three months before his father's death; and one daughter, *Sophia Christina Louisa*, who died in her infancy.

Charles Leopold, Prince of *Mecklenburgh Schuerin* married in a few days after his cousin's death, *Sophia Hedwiga* daughter to *Henry Casimar Nassau*, hereditary Stadtholder of *West Friezland*; but this union proving very disagreeable to both parties, they referred their disputes to the univer-

sity of *Griefswald*; and by mutual consent the marriage was annulled.

A. D.
1709

The desolate condition of the dutchy of *Mecklenburgh* did not prevent it from appearing a desirable acquisition to *Frederic* the First, King of *Prussia*, who asked *Sophia Louisa*, sister to the Duke of *Mecklenburgh*, in marriage; on condition that the dutchies of *Schuerin* and *Strelitz* should be settled on him and his heirs, in case of failure of issue in those families; which appeared the more probable, as *Frederic William* had no children. The Duke, who had a sincere affection for his sister, would not omit an opportunity of placing her on a throne, but consented to the terms required*; and had more satisfaction in the celebration of her nuptials, than in the succeeding years of her marriage, which were very unhappy; and after some time spent in domestic feuds, he was glad to consent to a separation between her and her husband, which was said to be chiefly occasioned by faults in her temper, and her capricious behaviour†. But the sufferings

* *Martiniere.*

† *Mem. de Brandenburg.*

of his people abated his sense of private vexations. He was by nature extremely compassionate, and felt the distresses of every individual. To be a Sovereign without the power of protecting his subjects, appeared to him the most wretched state of life, and affected his mind so deeply, that his constitution suffered from it: he was seized with a languor which threatened a speedy decay; and the advice of an unskilful Physician, who prescribed the waters of *Slagenback*, hastened the period which delivered him from the sight of so much misery, but added to the afflictions of his country. The waters proved very detrimental to him, and he died at *Mentz* without issue, A. D. 1713 in the thirty-ninth year of his age; as much regretted by his subjects, as if his reign had been more fortunate.

Charles Leopold, his brother, who succeeded to his dominions, gave them still greater cause than they expected, to lament the loss of the deceased Duke. He had the good fortune to see peace restored among those Princes by whose dissensions

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Mecklenburgh had so grievously suffered; and finding himself unmolested by his neighbours, he renewed the quarrel which *Christian Lewis* began with the nobility; nor did he find them more obedient; and the town of *Rostock*, from which he had likewise made the same demands, joined in their opposition.

The Emperor, who had assumed the right of decision in this affair, was offended that he should attempt to bring it to any other issue; and the rest of the Princes of *Lower Saxony*, unwilling to see him extend his power, supported the nobility in their disobedience.

A. D. 1716 The Duke who found himself unable to contend with so strong a party endeavoured to strengthen himself by an alliance with *Russia*, and married *Catherine*, daughter to the Czar *John*, and niece to *Peter the First* *, expecting great assistance from his uncle: but received less advantage than he imagined from so powerful an ally, and so near a relation. The Czar indeed, sent him some troops, but they

* History of *Russia*.

served only to increase his enemies, without rendering him able to resist them; for by calling in foreign auxiliaries, he raised a general alarm in *Lower Saxony*; and exasperated the Emperor, who decided in favour of the nobility, the cause that had been so long depending; and appointed an administrator of the dutchy, an office which was accepted by *Christian Lewis*, younger brother to *Charles Leopold*.

Leopold was reduced to quit his dominions, where he had scarcely a subject left to support his cause; he knew not how to submit; his pride would not suffer him to endeavour to mollify the Emperor, or to make concessions to his subjects, and he rather chose to live a private life, sometimes at *Dantzic*, sometimes at *Wisnar* *, than to seek the recovery of his dominions by means which he thought beneath the dignity of a Sovereign Prince.

He still affected a degree of magnificence inadequate to the small income allowed him. The *Russians* had never paid the dowry assigned to the Princess in mar-

* *Martiniere*.

riage, this was the only resource left him; but his repeated solicitations were not sufficient to obtain it, but by the importunity wherewith he demanded the payment, he rendered himself obnoxious to the *Russians*. Their backwardness to assist him in his war with the nobles of *Mecklenburgh*, had laid the seeds of discontent in his mind; and their refusal of so just a demand, completed his aversion to them, which he did not endeavour to dissemble, being a stranger to the patience so necessary to those who are depressed by fortune.

The hatred of a man divested of all power to annoy them was of little consequence to the *Russians*; but his wife felt severely the ill effects of his resentment. The misconduct of her relations gave him an aversion to her, and she received frequent proofs of his hatred. In this unfortunate situation they remained till the death of *Peter* the Second, Czar of *Muscovy*; which inspired the Duke with hopes of emerging from the obscurity in which his misfortunes had involved him. His wife, daughter to *John* the Second, eldest brother

January
30, 1730

ther to *Peter the Great*, was, by the death of her cousin become lawful heiress to the throne of *Muscovy*, nor was she so neglectful of her interests, as to omit asserting her claim, and demanding the crown to which she was so justly entitled : but *Leopold* was born to disappointments : the *Russians* would not accept the Dutcheſs of *Mecklenburgh* for their Sovereign. They were apprehensive lest complaisance for her husband might engage them in a war with *Germany* ; as he would in all probability endeavour by her assistance to recover his dominions ; nor were those who had enjoyed the chief share in the administration during the last reign, inclined to become in fact, though not in name, the subjects of a Prince who had shewn himself so zealous of his rights, and perogatives * ; and whose magnanimity was rendered more conspicuous by the spirit and dignity with which he had supported his misfortunes, than it could have been by a course of peace and prosperity.

* *Martiniere.*

The Dutchess could only assert her title verbally; she had no means of supporting her claim by force, nor did she hope to influence the *Russians* but by the justice of her cause. This had little weight when private interests and political views were put in the other scale; and she had the mortification to see her younger sister, *Ann*, Dutchess of *Courland*, raised to the throne, from whence she was unjustly excluded. The ministry declared that *Peter* the Second had nominated *Ann* for his successor; and that in deference to his choice, they preferred her to the Dutchess of *Mecklenburgh*: but they soon gave evident proofs that their only view was to secure to themselves the sole administration of the government, while they bestowed on the new Czarina a meer nominal Sovereignty. They appointed a council to assist her with their advice, but in reality to direct all her actions with the authority of Governors; and exacted from her such conditions as deprived her of every branch of royalty, except the splendor and pageantry

try of a court, and the pomp of empty titles.

Ann consented at the first to every article they required; but when she saw herself well established on the throne, they found her less passive. How artfully soever a faction may endeavour to circumscribe the Imperial power, its aim is easily baffled, since every ambitious man in the kingdom, is equally desirous to frustrate its views, and ready to throw that power into his Sovereign's hands which he expects will in great part, either through gratitude or prudence, be again delegated to him.

The new Empress found many of the nobles ready to concur with her desire of freeing herself from her splendid slavery; and by their means in a short time rescued her power out of the hands of her Governors. Having no children of her own, she endeavoured to repair the injury the *Russians* had done to the Dutchess of *Mecklenburgh*; and desired that her daughter *Ann* might be given into her care, to be educated at *Petersburg*, and acknowledged

A. D.
1731

ledged successor to the empire; which nothing could so much facilitate as her being continually in the sight of the people, and early initiated into the *Russian* customs; since by a ready conformity to their manners, she might conciliate their affections. As the Czarina was no less anxious for her sister's happiness than for the exaltation of her niece, she invited her to accompany the Princess; but seeing the Duke of *Mecklenburgh* might through enmity obstruct so fortunate a change in her situation, though her society gave him no pleasure; the Empress advised her to escape without his knowledge; promising to protect her, whatever might prove the consequence of the attempt.

The Dutchess readily consented to this measure, which gave her hopes of an happier life; and prevented a separation from her only daughter, whose promotion would be a sufficient consolation for the many misfortunes which had arisen from her marriage with the Duke of *Mecklenburgh*. Their escape was effected with all the success they could wish, and the Czarina

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rina received them in the most affectionate manner.

The Princess of *Mecklenburgh* was educated and respected as the future Empress of *Russia**. But her mother enjoyed the satisfaction of seeing her in so desirable a situation but three years, at the end of which term she died. The Duke of *Mecklenburgh* was too conscious of the hatred the Empress bore him on account of his treatment of her sister, to appear publicly at her court; but the desire of seeing his daughter induced him to go thither incognito, in the train of an embassy which he sent to *Petersburg*, and he had the satisfaction of beholding her on the throne with her aunt, and treated with the distinction due to the declared successor to the empire.

The Czarina, some time after, thought proper to marry her niece to *Antony Ulric*, Prince of *Brunswic Wolfembutte*. Some persons of the first distinction in the state opposed this union, unwilling to become subject to a *German* Prince; but the

A. D.
1739

* History of *Russia*.

power

power of the Empress was too well established to be controuled; their opposition only occasioned their own destruction, and the intended marriage took effect.

Ann survived these nuptials about a year. At her decease a will was found appointing *Iwan* or *John*, son to the Princess of *Mecklenburgh* and *Antony Ulric* of *Brunswic*, then but two months old, her successor in the empire, under the guardianship of his father and mother, but committing the regency of the state to the Duke of *Courland*; and in case of *John's* death, substituting the other sons which should be born of the Princess of *Mecklenburgh* in his place, according to the order of their birth*.

The desire of exalting the Duke of *Courland* occasioned the exclusion of the Princess of *Mecklenburgh* from the succession. He had long possessed the Empress's favour, having been attached to her before she was raised to the throne. To this man, who notwithstanding the meanness of his extraction, she had promoted to the highest

* Ibid.

honours,

honours, and conferred on him the dutchy of *Courland*, *Ann* would gladly have bequeathed the crown; but conscious that the *Russians* would not submit to such a bequest she chose a successor whose youth promised to the Dukes a long enjoyment of the government; as the best means of completing her wishes in his favour, and of gratifying his ambition.

The Princess of *Mecklenburgh* was sensibly affected by the loss of a crown, to which she had never doubted her succession; but to dispute the disposition made in her son's favour, might have been a means of depriving him of the throne, without obtaining it for herself. The young *John* therefore was crowned, and the Duke of *Courland* established in the regency; who endeavoured to ingratiate himself with the nobility, by conferring upon them many dignities and pecuniary grants, which pleased less than he expected, since those who received them, could scarcely forgive his having acquired the power to bestow favours on persons so much his superiors by birth. He appointed the Prince of *Brunswic*,

A. D.
1740

Brunswic, father to the Czar, Generallissimo, and High Admiral of the kingdom ; and increased the pension which the deceased Czarina had settled on the Princess at the time of her marriage : nor did he neglect the people,* but abated in their favour the rigour of many penal laws.*

Although the Duke of *Courland* did but half oblige those on whom he conferred obligations, yet he gave double offence to the families of such as he treated with severity. Punishment appearing to him as necessary towards establishing his authority as rewards and gratifications, he banished into *Siberia* without any form of process, some persons of great rank, who were averse to his promotion ; and by this exertion of absolute power, made the nation anticipate in their apprehensions, the horrors of a long subjection to a man whom they despised, on account of the meanness of his extraction ; and his unbounded ambition. The extreme youth of the Czar exposed them to a tedious minority ; and his death would only prolong the

* Ibid.

Duke of *Courland*'s regency, since a Sovereign still younger must succeed him.

The Princess of *Mecklenburgh* saw and fomented the discontents of the people; determining to obtain the supreme power, though excluded from the throne: she soon entered into a confederacy with the malecontents; and before the Duke of *Courland* had enjoyed his new acquired dignity a full month, her party became so potent, that she caused him to be seized, while he rested in imaginary security.

The Duke underwent a legal process, and was condemned to death; but the Princess, who was now declared Regent, remitted part of his punishment, and banished him, his family, and adherents, into *Siberia*.

As the Duke of *Courland* had few friends in the kingdom, every one paid a ready submission to the new Regent. Her hereditary title to the throne, together with her well known virtues, seemed to fix her power on a just and lasting basis; but as she had seen frequent instances of the instability of fortune's favours, she wished

wished to preserve peace with the neighbouring Princes, in order to be the more at liberty to establish her authority, by a steady attention to the administration of justice, and the interior concerns of her new empire. The *Swedes* seemed little disposed to suffer her to enjoy the tranquillity which in her situation was requisite to her safety. She had the mortification of finding they could not be pacified, although her father, the Duke of *Mecklenburgh*, who notwithstanding his long separation from his daughter, still felt the affection of a parent, endeavoured to bring the affair in question to an amicable issue, they declared war on the twenty-fourth of *June*.

The *Russians* made the like declaration a month after. As many of the *Swedes* were settled in that empire, the Princess forbade her subjects to give them any molestation, and offered to grant them permission to leave the country with all their effects, or to remain under her protection; but an unexpected revolution prevented her from maintaining

maintaining a war, which she had so strenuously endeavoured to avoid.

Elizabeth, daughter to *Peter* the Great, had long seen with jealous eyes her uncle's descendants seated on the throne of *Russia*. She could not deny but their father was the elder brother, but seemed to think the superior soul of *Peter* was a stronger claim to empire than priority of birth; and that the crown ought to devolve, to the children of the man, whose unparalleled talents had conferred upon it all its lustre; and the nation, by giving her father leave to appoint his successor had, in some measure abolished all hereditary right, and acknowledged no power but their Monarch's will.

However frivolous these pretensions, yet many among the discontented were ready to support them. The Prince who reigns over the fewest subjects, cannot gratify the ambition of all; but in so great an empire as that of *Russia*, only a small number, in comparison of the whole, can feel the influence of his favour.

The pleasures and luxuries that are enjoyed in more refined courts; attach great numbers to their Sovereign; and as there are more vain and voluptuous, than ambitious men, the greatest part seek only amusement and splendor: but in the *Rassan* empire, where fondness for the delicacies of life, and the pleasures of dissipation have not risen to so great a height; power and substantial emoluments are the general aim; and these can be imparted only to few: such therefore as had no share in the regent's confidence, hoped for a different fate under a Princess, whom they themselves should place upon the throne. The people very justly cherished the memory of *Peter* the Great; and loved the daughter for the father's virtues. His actions had almost obliterated from their remembrance every preceding Prince; whilst *John's* imbecillity had rendered him the object of their contempt, which was greatly increased by comparing him with his brother, whose genius will ever excite universal wonder, and veneration. The constraint in which the Princess had been kept

kept by the Empress *Ann*, had moved their compassion; they even beheld with indignation the daughter of *Peter* little better than a state prisoner; and were much more inclined to see the supreme power in her hands, than in those of the wife, or son of a foreign Prince. The Princess's person increased the public prejudice in her favour, and the turn of her mind rendered it more attractive to some individuals.

In the reign of the late Empress, *Elizabeth* was so closely observed, that it would have been difficult for her to have formed any settled party; but the Princess of *Mecklenburgh*, by leaving her more at liberty, gave her opportunity to attach a greater number to her interest. As offences against the government are most dangerous in an absolute monarchy, a conspirator must be sudden in the execution of his purposes; for when a slight suspicion sufficeth for his destruction, the completion of his designs must, if he tends his own safety, quickly follow the first step towards treason. Thus it was

in the revolution, which placed *Elizabeth*, the present Czarina, on the *Russian* throne; nor had the Regent any suspicion of what was transacting against her, till she found herself a prisoner in the palace. She saw guards placed at every gate without her order, and could not obtain any information concerning the cause. The houses of her principal ministers were beset in the same manner, she was denied all communication with any of her counsellors, and first learnt her fall from the acclamations of the people, on the proclamation of their new Sovereign*.

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Elizabeth's partizans assembled in the night at her palace, where they regulated the manner in which they should proceed to place her on the throne. As soon as day appeared, she was proclaimed Empress; and the young Czar, the Princess Regent, her husband, and daughter, were removed from the palace, where a few hours before, they had exercised the supreme power, to one, where although they were still treated with respect, they were guarded

* Ibid.

with

with the utmost care. The following month they received permission to return into *Germany*; a considerable sum of money, and all the jewels which the Empress *Ann* had given to the Princess of *Mecklenburgh*, were delivered to her, and an annual pension settled on her, and her son. This unfortunate family thought themselves happy in being treated with this seeming moderation; and the Princess found so much consolation in the near prospect of seeing her father, whose long experience of an adverse fortune qualified him to teach that constancy of mind which had been so conspicuous in him, that she scarcely regretted the high rank from which she was so suddenly fallen; and hoped that under such an instructor, her son might be taught the wisdom which is more precious than all the empires of the earth. But the generosity of the Czarina was merely hypocritical. Before they reached *Dantzic*, they were seized and brought back to *Riga*, on pretence that in the confessions of some of the Princess's ministers, who were treated as criminals,

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minals on account of their adherence to her, she was charged with actions which required a personal explanation. At *Riga* they were put under close confinement; nor could they hope for any great change in their favour, since it seldom happens that a Prince whose right to the throne he possesses is equivocal, treats his competitors with much generosity; especially when they have the more just title on their side.

The *Prussian* and *Austrian* ministers solicited the Empress in favour of the Princess of *Mecklenburgh*, but received no other answer than, That, " she had little
 " reason to complain of her detention,
 " since the Empress had ordered she should
 " be treated at *Riga* with the respect due
 " to her rank; and every convenience
 " and amusement procured her, which
 " the present situation of affairs would
 " permit*.

The Princess survived this revolution about three years; but the young Czar still continues in his confinement; perhaps

* Ibid.

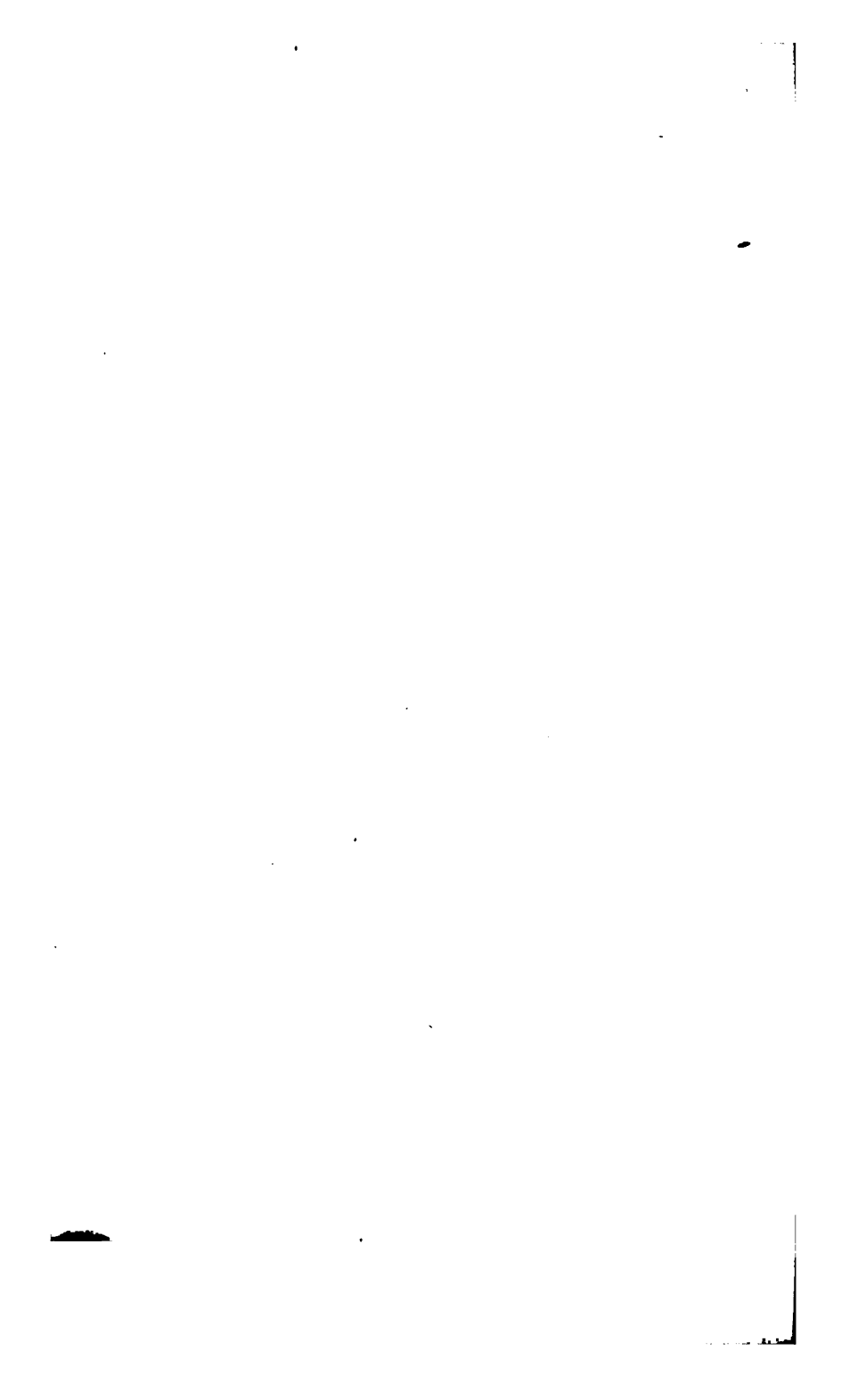
with less vexation, for never having known the sweets of liberty; being little more than a year old when he exchanged the throne for a prison.

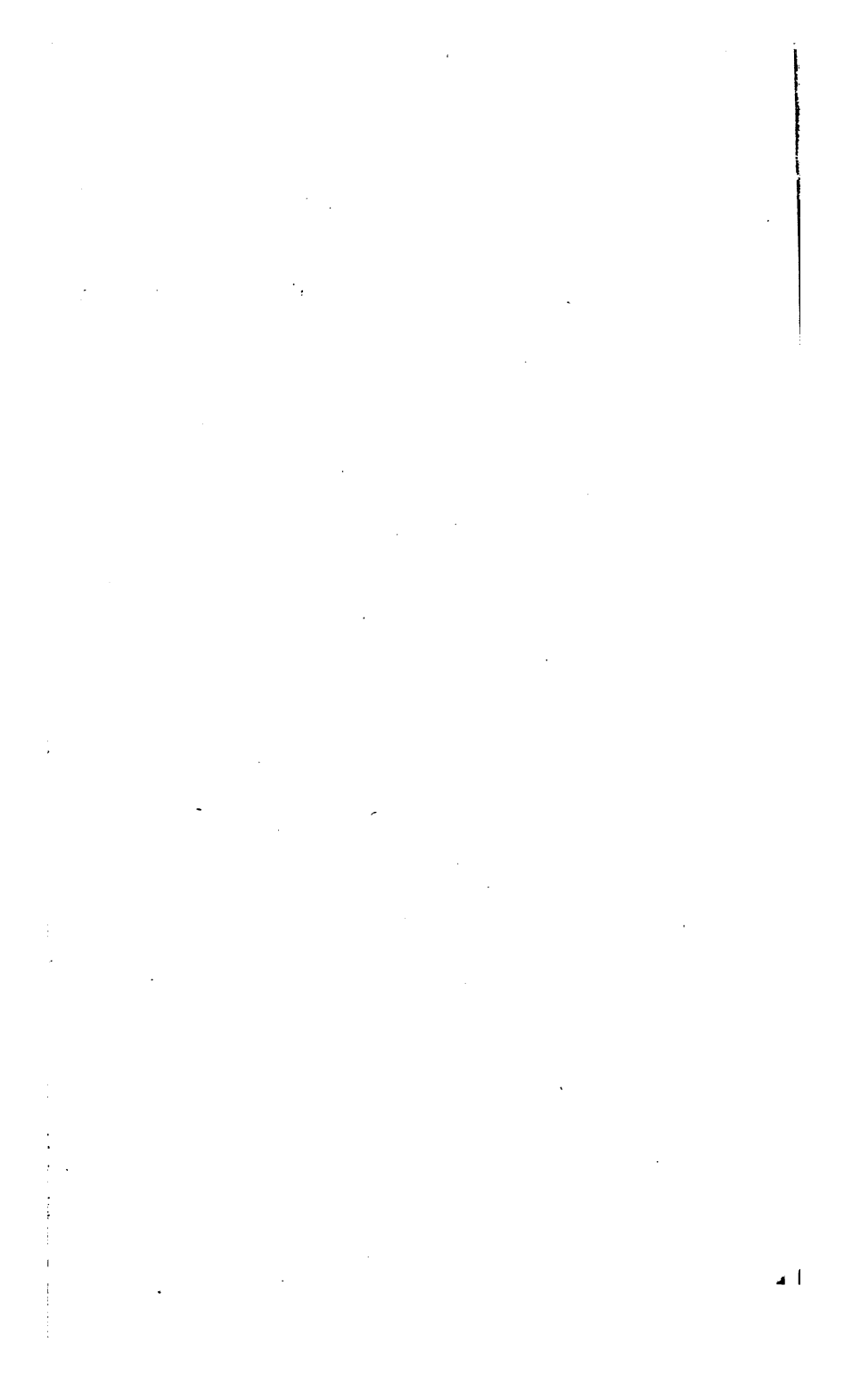
His grandfather, *Charles Leopold*, left no surviving issue, and the dukedom of *Macklenburgh* continued in the hands of *Christian Lewis* the administrator; who was succeeded by the sons which *Gustava*, Princess of *Strelitz* bore him.

The year after, *Adolphus Frederic* the Third, Duke of *Strelitz*, succeeded to his dominions, he married *Dorothy Sophia*, daughter of *John Adolphus* Duke of *Holstein Plon*, but died without issue; whereby *Adolphus Frederic* the Fourth, born the fifth of *May* 1738, son to *Charles Lewis Frederic*, his younger brother, became heir to that duchy, and is the present reigning Duke. *Charles Lewis Frederic* his father had by *Albertina Elizabeth*, his wife, and daughter to *Ernest Frederic*, Duke of *Saxe Hildbourghausen*, beside the present Duke, three sons, *Charles Lewis Frederic*, born the tenth of *December* 1741, and now a Colonel in the *Hano-*
verian

noverian service; *Ernest Gottlob Albert*, born *August* the 27th 1742; and *George Augustus*, born *August* the third 1748: and two daughters, *Christina Sophia Albertina*, born *December* the sixth 1735; and *Sophia Charlotte*, born *May* the 16th 1744, and married at *St. James's* on the eighth of *September* 1761, to a Monarch, whose virtues are still more exalted than his station; which promise her amidst the pomp and splendor of a court, all the more valuable blessings of domestic felicity. How fortunate may that Princess be deemed, whose husband's heart is a far more valuable present than his throne; and who finds united in one person, the most amiable Sovereign, the tenderest friend, and the greatest example of every virtue that can adorn a Monarch!

F I N I S.







OCT 29 1943

